1. With reference to the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. In the Kesavananda Bharati verdict, the SC did not define any of the principles as basic structure and defined only after the further case verdicts.
2. The court held that under Article 368, which provides Parliament amending powers, something must remain of the original Constitution that the new amendment would change.
3. Federalism and secularism are also included in the basic structure of the Indian Constitution.

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:

- The **court did not define the 'basic structure'**, and **only listed a few principles — federalism, secularism, democracy** — as being its part. Since then, the court has been adding new features to this concept. **So, statement 1 is not correct** and **statement 3 is correct.**
- The court held that under Article 368, which provides Parliament amending powers, something must remain of the original Constitution that the new amendment would change. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government that comes under the aegis of Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is one of the largest social security organizations in India in terms volume of financial transactions undertaken and the number of covered beneficiaries.

- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- The main functions of the EPFO: Administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

3. Consider the following statements:

1. She was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet from Maharashtra.
2. She played an important role in improving women's rights in India.
3. She is regarded as the first female teacher of India.

The following statement best describes which of the Following Personalities?

(a) Sarojini Naidu
(b) Savitribai Phule
(c) Rani Chennamma
(d) Kasturba Gandhi

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Savitribai Phule (1831 – 1897) was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet from Maharashtra.
- Along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule, she played an important role in improving women's rights in India. She is regarded as the mother of Indian feminism.
- She established the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise awareness for issues concerning women's rights.
- Savitribai was also an anti-infanticide activist. She opened a women's shelter called the Home for the Prevention of Infanticide, where Brahmin widows could safely deliver their children and leave them there to be adopted if they so desired.
- She is regarded as the first female teacher of India. Phule and her husband founded the first Indian girls' school in Pune, at Bhide wada in 1848.
- She also worked to abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste.
- She published Kavya Phule in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892, and also a poem entitled "Go, Get Education" in which she encouraged those who are oppressed to free themselves by obtaining an education.

4. Which of the following is/are ***not*** the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee with respect to Fundamental Duties?

1. The Parliament may provide for the imposition of punishment or penalty as considered suitable for non-compliance of these duties.
2. Such punishment or law won't be questioned in a court of law for the enforcement of fundamental Rights and in case it caused a breach of fundamental rights.

3. Duty to pay taxes by the citizen was by the citizen was also on the list of fundamental duties.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In 1976, the committee was set up to make a recommendation for fundamental duties, the need and necessity of which was felt during the emergency period.
- The committee recommended for the inclusion of separate chapter under the heading of Fundamental Duties.
- It will make citizen conscious of their duties while enjoying fundamental rights.
- The government accepted the suggestion and included in a separate article 51A which had ten fundamental duties.
- The government declared that non-inclusion of fundamental duties in the original constitution was a huge mistake which has now been ratified by the present Government.
- Although Swaran Singh Committee suggested the incorporation of only eight fundamental duties but the 42nd Amendment had ten duties.
- It is not surprising that not all recommendations were accepted by the then government, some of these non-recommendations are:

1. The Parliament may provide for the imposition of punishment or penalty as considered suitable for non-compliance of these duties.
2. Such punishment or law won't be questioned in a court of law for the enforcement of fundamental Rights and in case it caused a breach of fundamental rights.
3. Duty to pay taxes by the citizen was by the citizen was also on the list of fundamental duties.

5. Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary is located in:

(a) Uttarakhand

(b) Himachal Pradesh

(c) Punjab

(d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the bank of Spiti River in Himachal Pradesh.
- It is India's only cold desert wildlife sanctuary.

6. Which of the following rightly describes Mission SAMPARK?

(a) The mission is aimed at tracing patients with HIV/AIDS, who are left to follow up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services.

(b) The mission is aimed at formulating developmental policies for accelerating growth of the telecommunication services.

(c) The mission launched in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic to have a safe arrangement to fly passengers between two countries.

(d) The mission is aimed at assisting the needy disabled persons in procuring standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Mission Sampark is an initiative of the Government of India to reach out to all the Lost to Follow up Patients Living with HIV/AIDS.e
- The mission is aimed at tracing those who are left to follow up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

1. It is the second-largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.
2. Its Permanent Secretariat is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
3. The OIC has permanent delegations to the European Union.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

8. Consider the following, with reference to the Sikhism:

1. Guru Arjan Dev was the tenth Sikh guru.
2. The Adi Granth was composed by the guru Gobind Singh.
3. Sangat is a congregational worship practice involving collective recitation.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Guru Nanak Dev was born in 1459 at Talwandi Rai Bhoe village near Lahore, which was later renamed as Nankana Sahib. He was the first of the 10 gurus of Sikhism.

His Contributions Involves:

- Initiated inter-faith dialogue way back in the 16th century and had conversations with most of the religious denominations of his times.
- Wrote compositions which were included in the Adi Granth, compiled by Guru Arjan (1563-1606), the fifth Sikh guru.
- This came to be known as Guru Granth Sahib after the additions made by the 10th sikh guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708). Advocated the 'Nirguna' (devotion to and worship of formless divine) form of bhakti.
- Rejected sacrifices, ritual baths, image worship, austerities.
- Set up rules for congregational worship (Sangat) involving collective recitation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Gave the basic mantra of 'Ek Onkar' to his followers and insisted on treating all human beings equally, without discriminating on the basis of caste, creed and gender.

9. In context to Mission COVID Suraksha, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's targeted effort to enable the development of indigenous, affordable and accessible vaccines.
2. It will be implemented by a Mission Implementation Unit under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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:

- Mission COVID Suraksha is India's targeted effort to enable the development of indigenous, affordable and accessible vaccines for the country and will complement the ongoing mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Mission with its end-to-end focus from preclinical development through clinical development and manufacturing and regulatory facilitation for deployment, would consolidate all available and funded resources towards accelerated product development.

- It will be led by the Department of Biotechnology and implemented by a dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

10. With reference to Diabetes, consider the following statements:

1. In Type-1 Diabetes, the body fails to produce sufficient insulin.
2. In Type-2 Diabetes, although the body produces insulin, the cells do not respond to it.
3. Type-2 Diabetes is also known as juvenile diabetes as it mostly affects children aged 14-16 years.

Which of the statements given above are Correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.
- Diabetes affects the five major organs namely, Kidney, Heart, Blood vessels, Nervous System, and Eyes (retina).

Types of Diabetes:

- Type I diabetes: It is also known as juvenile diabetes (as it mostly affects children of age 14-16 years), this type occurs when the body fails to produce sufficient insulin.
- People with type I diabetes are insulin-dependent, which means they must take artificial insulin daily to stay alive.
- Type 2 diabetes: It affects the way the body uses insulin. While the body still makes insulin, unlike in type I, the cells in the body do not respond to it as effectively as they once did.
- The population with 45 and above age groups is the most affected with it.
- Gestational diabetes: This type occurs in women during pregnancy when the body sometimes becomes less sensitive to insulin.
- Gestational diabetes does not occur in all women and usually resolves after Giving Birth.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Peacock Soft-Shelled Turtle:

1. The species is confined to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh only.
2. The species is found in rivers, lakes, and ponds with mud or sand bottoms.
3. The turtle species is listed as near threatened in the IUCN Red List.

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: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, A Peacock soft-shelled turtle has been rescued from a fish market in Assam's Silchar.
- They have a large head, downturned snout with low and oval carapace of dark olive green to nearly black, sometimes with a yellow rim.
- The head and limbs are olive green; the forehead has dark reticulations and large yellow or orange patches or spots, especially behind the eyes and across the snout.
- This species is confined to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- In India, it is widespread in the northern and central parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- These are found in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds with mud or sand bottoms. Conservation Status:
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**.
- **CITES: Appendix I**

2. In context to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The central government bears the full cost of unskilled labour employed under this scheme.
2. It provides livelihood security for people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage Employment in a Financial Year.

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 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was notified by the Government of India in September, 2005 and was made effective in February 2006. Under it, the NREGA was Introduced.
- The Act aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage

employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members (at least 18 years of age) volunteer to do unskilled work.

- The central government bears the full cost of unskilled labour, and 75% of the cost of material (the rest is borne by the states).
- It is a demand-driven scheme, social security and labour law that aims to enforce the 'right to work'.
- The Ministry of Rural Development in association with state governments, monitors the implementation of the scheme.

3. Which of the following initiatives are launched to tackle HIV/AIDS?

1. Project Sunrise
2. The Red Ribbon
3. 90-90-90 Target

Choose the correct answer using 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:

- World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December every year all over the world.
- Theme for 2020: "Global solidarity, resilient HIV services."
- On World AIDS Day 2020, WHO is calling on global leaders and citizens to rally for "global solidarity" to overcome the challenges posed by Covid-19 on the HIV response.
- The term 90-90-90 refers to a target set by the UNAIDS programme.
- The "90-90-90" targets for 2020, ensures that the 90% of people living with HIV are aware of their status, 90% of people diagnosed with HIV are receiving treatment, and 90% of all people receiving treatment have achieved viral suppression.
- Project Sunrise: A initiative called 'Project Sunrise' was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs
- The Red Ribbon: The red ribbon is the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV. Wearing a ribbon is a great way to raise awareness on and during the run up to World AIDS Day.

4. Chardham Project was sometimes seen in News. Which of the following places constitute the same?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Yamunotri
4. Gangotri
5. Kasi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttrakhand and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- The cost of the project is around Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- It envisages improvement as well as development of 889 km length of national highways.
- Implementing Agencies are Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), BRO and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

5. With respect to the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model, consider the following statements:

1. Under this model, the cost borne by the Government and the private player is 50:50.
2. Government invites bids for engineering Knowledge from the private players and the procurement of raw materials and construction costs are met by the Government.

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:

- Under this model, the cost is completely borne by the government. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Government invites bids for engineering knowledge from the private players. Procurement of raw materials and construction costs are met by the government. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

6. Crete Island, sometimes seen in news is located in

(a) Caspian Sea

(b) Aegean Sea

(c) Mediterranean Sea

(d) Black Sea

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Crete became part of Greece in December 1913.
- It is located in the southern part of the Aegean Sea separating the Aegean from the Libyan Sea.

7. Consider the following statements:

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

The following statements best describes which of the following lake?

(a) Vembanad Lake

(b) SasthamKotta Lake

(c) Ashtamudi Lake

(d) Kadalundi Lake

Answer: a)

Explanation:

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

8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian peacock softshell turtle:

1. It is a riverine turtle.
2. It is listed in the "vulnerable" category in the IUCN Red List.
3. It is an herbivore.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Indian peacock softshell turtle (Nilssonia hurum) is a Riverine Turtle.
- They are generally omnivorous (predominantly carnivorous) and Nocturnal.
- They are listed in the "vulnerable" category in the IUCN Red List and Appendix I of CITES.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mathura School of Art was influenced by Greek methodologies.
2. The stone used in the Mathura School of Art was red sandstone.

3. A smiling Buddha and less emphasis on spiritual aspects are the prominent features of the Mathura School of Art.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Mathura School of Art was entirely influenced by Indianism.
- The stone used in the Mathura School of Art was red sandstone.
- The sculptures were less spiritual. A smiling Buddha and less emphasis on spiritual aspects are the prominent features of the Mathura School of Art.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Guru Nanak Dev:

1. He aimed at creating a casteless society in which there is no hierarchy.
2. He founded the city of Amritsar.
3. He advocated the concept of "dasvandh".

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Guru Nanak Dev, also referred to as Baba Nanak, was the founder of Sikhism and is the first of the ten Sikh Gurus.
- He aimed at creating a casteless society in which there is no hierarchy.
- Guru Nanak founded Kartarpur in 1504 AD on the right bank of the Ravi River. The name Kartarpur means "City of Creator or God".
- Amritsar was founded by Sri Guru Ramdas Ji, the fourth guru of the Sikhs.
- Guru Nanak advocated the concept of "dasvandh" or donating one-tenth of one's earning among needy persons.

1. Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA), which of the following countries are included to make a deal with Iran?

1. US
2. UK
3. Russia
4. France
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in a 2015 deal struck with the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5+1 countries). The United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.
- Under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA)** Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- The JCPOA established the Joint Commission, with the negotiating parties all represented, to monitor implementation of the agreement.
- Iran has said that it will "automatically" return to its nuclear commitments if U.S. President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past two years.

2. Which of the following weather events are formed due to precipitation?

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

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

3. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary sometimes seen in news is the disputed territory between

(a) India and Bhutan
(b) India and China
(c) China and Bhutan
(d) Nepal and China

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is located in the eastern most part of Bhutan, consists of alpine meadow and temperate and warm broadleaf forests.
- China has already stopped funding for the Sakteng sanctuary from the U.N. Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF), on the grounds that it was "disputed" territory.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 has now been invalidated and, instead, delimitation to the UT of J&K will be done as per the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** (as amended from time to time) and provisions of Sections 59, 60 of Act 34 of 2019. **So, statement 2 is not correct**.
- These bodies are so powerful that its **orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court. So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Bifurcation of J&K into two UTs has led to redrawing of Assembly constituency boundaries. While, the UT of Ladakh will not have its own legislature, J&K will. This would be similar to Puducherry or Delhi.
- They are constituted after every Census. However, such delimitation was also necessitated in 2014 when Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were bifurcated. **So, statement 1 is not correct**.

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

1. It is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.
2. India has been given observer status in the OIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states.
- It is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
- India is neither a member nor an observer of the OIC. However, India was invited as a guest of honour at the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Minister in 2019. 2019 is the 50th anniversary of OIC.
- At the 45th session of the Foreign Ministers' Summit in 2018, Bangladesh, the host, suggested that India, where more than 10% of the world's Muslims live, should be given Observer status, but Pakistan opposed the proposal.

6. Consider the following statements, with reference to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme:

1. It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education.
2. It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with villages.

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: c)

Explanation:

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education. It was launched in 2014.
- It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with a set of at least (5) villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base. It covers two major domains for holistic development of villages – human development and material (economic) development - in an integrated way.

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 is the upgraded version of UBA 1.0. It was launched in 2018.
- UBA 1.0 or UBA Phase-1 was the Invitation Mode in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA.
- Whereas UBA 2.0 is the Challenge Mode of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme where all HEIs are required to willingly adopt at least 5 villages.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT, Delhi) has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme.

7. In context to the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), consider the following statements:

1. It was established as a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in 1987.
2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
3. TRIFOOD Scheme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

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:

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) of India was established in 1987 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by the Government of India as a National level Cooperative body. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- TRIFOOD Scheme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED and it promotes value addition to Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of Economic Trends in the manufacturing sector.
2. The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
3. PMI reading at 50 indicates expansion.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing sector.
- The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared with the previous month.
- A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to torrefaction:

1. It is a thermal process used to produce liquid biofuels from various streams of woody biomass or agro residues.
2. It involves heating the biomass to temperatures between 250 and 300 degrees Celsius in a low-oxygen atmosphere.
3. The end product of torrefaction has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Torrefaction is a thermal process used to produce high-grade solid biofuels from various streams of woody biomass or agro residues.
- The end product is a stable, homogeneous, high quality solid biofuel with far greater energy density and calorific value than the original feedstock. It has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass.
- Torrefaction involves heating the biomass to temperatures between 250 and 300 degrees Celsius in a low-oxygen atmosphere.
- This changes the elements of the biomass into 'coal-like' pellets.
- These pellets can be used for combustion along with coal for industrial applications like steel and cement production.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Ammonia is used in making urea.
2. Coating urea with neem oil facilitates the rapid release of nitrogen from urea.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Ammonia is used in making urea.
- Ammonia reacts with carbon dioxide to produce urea. Urea is always manufactured close to an ammonia plant.

- Spraying urea with neem oil has a few agronomic and environmental benefits.
- Neem has proven nitrification inhibition properties. This way it slows down the process of nitrogen release from urea (by about 10 to 15 percent). Thus it reduces the consumption of the fertilizer.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the GST Council:

1. GST Council is a statutory body constituted under the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
2. The GST Council is headed by the Finance Minister of India.
3. Decisions are taken after a majority in the council with Centre has 1/3rd voting rights and states have 2/3rd voting rights.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A.
- Its Chairman is Finance Minister.
- It will approve all decision related to taxation in the country.
- It consists of Centre, 28 states, Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Centre has 1/3rd voting rights and states have 2/3rd voting rights.
- Decisions are taken after a majority in the council.
- Article 279A (4) specifies that the Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on the important issues related to GST, such as, the goods and services will be subject or exempted from the Goods and Services Tax.

2. Which of the following is/are favourable conditions for formation of the cyclone?

1. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
2. Absence of the Coriolis force.
3. Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
4. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
5. Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

Favourable Conditions for formation:

- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
- **Presence of the Coriolis force.**

- Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
- A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Anticipatory Bail:

1. Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued after the person is arrested.
2. Anticipatory bail is not granted for the persons who are arrested under the SCs and STs (prevention of Atrocities) Act.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued even before the person is arrested. **So, statement 1 is incorrect**.
- It is only issued by the Sessions court and High Court.
- The 2018 amendment act was proposed to nullify the safeguards proposed by the Supreme Court. The amendments proposed were:

1. Investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused.
2. Preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
3. **Persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail** (Section 18A).

- To avoid any ambiguity the act proposes that these provisions apply despite any judgments or orders of a court that provide otherwise. These amendments to the prevention of atrocities act were questioned in the Supreme Court as **ultra vires** (beyond the powers).
- However in February 2020 judgment in **Prathvi Raj Chouhan Case**, the SC has **upheld Section 18A** and said that the High Courts will have an **"inherent power"** to **grant anticipatory bail** in cases in which prima facie an offence under the 1989 law is not made out. **So statement 2 is incorrect**.

4. 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.**

5. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) test, sometimes been in the news is related to?

(a) Measuring distance between celestial objects
(b) Discovery of gravitational waves
(c) Search for magnetic monopoles at the center of black hole
(d) Ascertain the composition of a product at the molecular level

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Test is an analytical chemistry technique used in quality control and research for determining the content and purity of a sample as well as its molecular structure.
- It is a test that can ascertain the composition of a product at the molecular level.
- The NMR test is not required by Indian law for honey that is being marketed locally but is needed for export.

- Recent NMR tests, while being able to detect additives, were not able to detect the quantity of adulteration.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Protection of Regional Languages':

1. The Namath Basai initiative is launched by the Ministry of Education to teach tribal children in the vernacular languages.
2. The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL).
3. The Yuelu Proclamation of UNESCO is aimed at protecting linguistic resources and diversity.

Choose the correct answer using 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 initiative Namath Basai by Kerala State Government has proved to be very beneficial in educating children from tribal areas by adopting vernacular languages as medium of instruction.
- The Yuelu Proclamation made by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at Changsha, China, in 2018 plays a central role in guiding the efforts of countries and regions around the world to protect linguistic resources and diversity.
- The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL).

7. mCessation Programme, sometime seen in the news is related to

(a) Mobile portal to register any cyber fraud or harassment.
(b) Scheme to build shelter homes to withstand against the high speed tropical cyclone winds in coastal areas.
(c) Programme for testing Covid-19 infection and stopping its spread.
(d) Using mobile technology to discourage tobacco consumption.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- mCessation Programme is an initiative using mobile technology for tobacco cessation.
- India launched mCessation using text messages in 2016 as part of the government's Digital India initiative. It uses two-way messaging between the individual seeking to quit tobacco use and programme specialists providing them dynamic support.
- The National Tobacco Control Programme and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with support from the WHO and the International

Telecommunication Union's 'Be He@lthy, Be mobile' initiative, implemented the programme.

- The programme allows people who want to quit tobacco use to register by giving a missed call to a dedicated national number.
- The programme's progress is monitored in real-time through an online dashboard that details the number of registrations.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The governor can pardon the Death Sentence.
2. The governor can suspend or remit the Death Sentence.
3. The governor can commute the death sentence.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The governor cannot pardon the death sentence and the punishment by Court-Martial.
- Governor cannot pardon the death sentence even if the said sentence has been prescribed under the state law.
- However, he can suspend, remit or commute the death sentence by using these pardoning powers.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Interpol:

1. Interpol is a global police co-operation agency and a non-governmental organization (NGO).
2. It is headquartered at Geneva, Switzerland.
3. Interpol Orange Notice is issued to locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Interpol is a global police co-operation agency and a non-governmental organization (NGO). It was established as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in 1923.
- Its headquarters is located at Lyon, France. Interpol Purple Notice is issued to provide information on modus operandi, procedures, objects, devices, or hiding places used by criminals.

- Orange notice is issued to warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing an imminent threat and danger to persons or property.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to NETRA:

1. It is a real-time network surveillance tool.
2. It is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- NETRA (short for Network Traffic Analysis), is being developed by the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), a unit of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is a real-time network surveillance tool.

1. 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 Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park.
3. The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti.

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 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. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Periyar River originates from Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park. The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. 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**.

3. Consider the following statements:

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

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The definition of goods under the GST Act includes actionable claim.
2. The term actionable claim is defined under GST law.
3. Lottery, gambling and betting are taxable under the GST Act as they are actionable claims.

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

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- GST Law does not define Actionable Claim separately under the Act. The definition for an actionable claim is taken as the one defined in Section 3 of the Transfer of Property Act.
- The definition of goods under the GST Act includes actionable claim.
- The Supreme Court has held that lottery, gambling and betting are taxable under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act.
- It asserted that lottery, gambling and betting were actionable claims and came within the definition of 'goods' under Section 2(52) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
- The term actionable claim is every kind of claim in a movable property which would be enforced through the courts.
- Actionable Claim relating to lottery, betting and gambling alone will be regarded as 'Goods' since the definition of goods under Section 2(52) includes actionable claim.
- Therefore, only lottery, betting and gambling shall be treated as supplies under the GST regime.

6. Which country has India procured the Poseidon P-8I aircrafts from?

(a) Russia

(b) The U.S.A

(c) Japan

(d) France

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Poseidon P-8I aircraft is a maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft from the US.
- The P-8I, based on the Boeing next-generation 737 commercial airplane, is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy. India was Boeing's first international customer for this aircraft.
- The first P-8I aircraft was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2013.
- The P-8Is were deployed to carry out surveillance on the movement of Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh in the last few months.
- The reconnaissance aircraft was deployed in Doklam along the Sikkim border too during the 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in 2017.
- The P-8Is were also deployed to keep an eye on the movement of Pakistani troops after the Pulwama terror attack.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to RT-PCR Testing:

1. It is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material from any pathogen.
2. It combines reverse transcription of RNA into DNA and amplification of specific DNA Targets using polymerase chain Reaction.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct.
- RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material from any pathogen, including a virus.
- RT-PCR is a laboratory technique combining reverse transcription of RNA into DNA and amplification of specific DNA targets using polymerase chain reaction.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to the conditions are favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms:

1. Presence of the coriolis force.
2. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area.
3. Small variations in the horizontal wind speed.
4. Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently cyclone Burevi has made a landfall on Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces, before heading towards south India.
- The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27°C. Presence of the coriolis force. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Small variations in the vertical (not horizontal) wind speed. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

9. In context to to Minimum support price (MSP) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for mandated crops and sugarcane.
2. The Recommendations of CACP are not Binding on the Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of "support".
- It is also the price that government agencies pay whenever they procure the particular crop. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- CACP is an advisory body whose recommendations are not binding on the Government.

10. Consider the following, with reference to Malayan Giant Squirrel:

1. It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests.
2. It is endemic to the Malay Peninsula.

3. It is listed as critically endangered in IUCN Red List.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Malayan Giant Squirrel is one of the world's largest squirrel species that has a dark upper body, pale under parts, and a long, bushy tail.
- Unlike the nocturnal flying squirrels, giant squirrels are diurnal (active during the day), but arboreal (tree-dwelling) and herbivorous like the flying squirrels.
- It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, from plains to hills at elevations of 50 m to 1,500 m above sea level. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Globally it is distributed through Southern China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java. In India, is found in the forests of Northeast and is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland (not endemic to Malay Peninsula). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - ✓ IUCN Red List: Near Threatened
  - ✓ CITES: Appendix II
  - ✓ Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

1. Anshi Tiger reserve is located in.

(a) Chhattisgarh.

(b) Bihar.

(c) Karnataka.

(d) Kerala

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve belongs to the Western Ghats in the Uttara Kannada district. The undulating streams, bamboo, diverse wildlife and innumerable trekking trails make it a dream destination.
- The Kali river and its tributaries, Kaneri and Nagajhari, flow through this forest.
- The Tiger Reserve comprises of two Protected Areas viz., Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (475.018 sq. km.) and Anshi National Park (339.866 sq. km.) that are contiguous to each other.

2. Kra canal project was associated which of the following pair of countries.

(a) India and Maldives

(b) China and Sri Lanka

(c) Indonesia and Malaysia.

(d) China and Thailand

Answer: d)

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. It is a 10-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is a 6-member body functioning under the chairmanship of RBI Governor.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the J&K Roshini Act:

1. The Act envisages the transfer of ownership rights of state land to its occupants, subject to the payment of a cost, as determined by the government.
2. The revenue generated would be spent on commissioning hydroelectric power projects.
3. Through amendments, the government also gave ownership rights of agricultural land to farmers occupying it for free, charging them only Rs 100 per kanal as documentation fee.

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:

- Enacted in 2001, the law sought to regularise unauthorised land.
- The Act envisaged the transfer of ownership rights of state land to its occupants, subject to the payment of a cost, as determined by the government.
- The government said the revenue generated would be spent on commissioning hydroelectric power projects, hence the name "Roshni".
- Further, through amendments, the government also gave ownership rights of agricultural land to farmers occupying it for free, charging them only Rs 100 per kanal as documentation fee.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):

1. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
2. It is not mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
3. As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The UID number will also be printed on the card.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the FASTags:

1. The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
2. The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
- The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
- Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object. A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
- The tag is valid for five years and comes in seven different colours — violet, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue, black. Each colour is assigned to a particular category of vehicles.
- To encourage the use of FASTags, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) refunds 5% of the total monthly transactions.
- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.
- FASTag is presently operational at both, national and state highways.

7. Consider the following pairs:

	Species		**IUCN Status**
1.	Steppe Eagle	-	Vulnerable
2.	Northern White Rhino	-	Critically Endangered
3.	Amur Falcon	-	Least concern

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Steppe eagle is believed to be the second-largest migratory eagle species to India.
- In winter, steppe eagle breeds in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.
- Conversion of open habitats to aquaculture, pesticides and various effluents are a few threats to the species.
- IUCN categorizes it as **Endangered** in its Red list. **So, Answer is d.**

8. Consider the following statements:

1. It is organised in partnership with UNESCO.
2. The Global Education Monitoring Report is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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:

- Ranjitsinh Disale, a primary teacher from Maharashtra's Solapur, has won the Global Teacher Prize 2020.

Global Teacher Prize:

- It is a 1-million-dollar award presented annually to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession.
- Varkey Foundation, which is a global charitable foundation focused on improving the standards of education. The award is organised in partnership with UNESCO.
- **Global Education Monitoring Report:** It is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which aims to monitor progress towards the education targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4).
- **SDG Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

9. With reference to the Great Barrier Reef, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the south coast of Australia.
2. It has been selected as a World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has highlighted that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is in a critical state and deteriorating as climate change warms up the waters in which it lies.
- It is the world's most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands.
- The reef is located in the North-East Coast of Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- It can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.
- This reef structure is composed of and built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps.
- It was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981.

10. With reference to the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint effort between the US- National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute.
2. The data generated will not be publicly available for anyone.

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 Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) is a landmark cancer genomics program that molecularly characterized over 20,000 primary cancer and matched normal samples spanning 33 cancer types.
- This is a joint effort between the US-National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute began in 2006, bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions.
- Over the years, TCGA generated over 2.5 petabytes of genomic, epigenomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic data.
- The data, which has already led to improvements in the ability to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer, will remain publicly available for anyone (open source) in the research community to use.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Hayabusa 2 is carrying the first extensive samples of dust from the asteroid Ryugu
2. Trojans are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet, but do not collide with it

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, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has received a capsule from the unmanned Hayabusa 2, carrying the first extensive samples of dust from the asteroid Ryugu.
- The mission builds on the original Hayabusa mission that was launched in 2003 and successfully linked up with asteroid Itokawa in 2005.
- It returned samples to Earth in 2010 marking the first time when sample materials from an asteroid were brought back to Earth. Trojans are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet, but do not collide with it because they gather around two special places in the orbit (called the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points).
- There, the gravitational pull from the sun and the planet are balanced.

2. In context to the Vittala Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Dravidian style temple.
2. It was built in the 15th century by the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire.
3. It is dedicated to the both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Vittala Temple was built in the 15th century during the rule of Devaraya II, one of the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- The temple is dedicated to Vittala and is also called Vijaya Vittala Temple. Vittala is said to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
- Dravidian style adorns the built of the complex, which is further enhanced with elaborate carvings.
- Dravidian architecture survives in the rest of Southern India spread through the patronage of the Vijayanagara rulers.
- Vijayanagara architecture is also known for its adoption of elements of Indo Islamic Architecture in secular buildings like the Queen's Bath and the Elephant Stables, representing a highly evolved multi-religious and multi-ethnic society.

3. Consider the following, with reference to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER):

1. It is a collaborative project of US and France.
2. It aims to build the world's largest tokamak to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale source of Energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) aims to build the world's largest tokamak to prove the feasibility of fusion as a large-scale and carbon-free source of energy.
- The tokamak is an experimental machine designed to harness the energy of fusion. Inside a tokamak, the energy produced through the fusion of atoms is absorbed as heat in the walls of the vessel. Like a conventional power plant, a fusion power plant uses this heat to produce steam and then electricity by way of turbines and generators.
- International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is a collaboration of 35 nations launched in 1985. It is located in France.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.
2. The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught.
3. The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Hoysaleshwara Temple, Halebeedu, Karnataka.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Chausath Yogini temple of **Morena, Madhya Pradesh. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Right to Internet is a Fundamental Right included in the freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Suspension of internet services indefinitely is also a violation of telecom rules and this right cannot be restricted on any circumstances.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The SC on Anuradha Bhasin case has said that all restrictive orders under Section 144 of CrPC and suspension of internet services in Jammu and Kashmir have to be reviewed.
- The verdict has laid down a framework of how the Internet can be suspended, and what rights and legal recourses a citizen has when it is suspended.
- Right to internet is a fundamental right (subject to reasonable restrictions) included in the freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Restrictions on fundamental rights could not be in exercise of arbitrary powers.
- These freedoms could only be restricted as a last resort if "relevant factors" have been considered and no other options are there.
- Any order passed to restrict or suspend judicial scrutiny will be subject to judicial scrutiny.
- Suspension of internet services indefinitely is also a violation of telecom rules. However, it is subjected to reasonable restrictions. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

6. 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%.
- The quota targets the poor among the upper castes. This will be over and above 50% mandated by Constitution and hence the need for Constitution amendment Bill.

7. 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.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI):

1. It is the apex anti-money laundering agency of India.
2. It is the lead agency for Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord).
3. The Directorate is run by officers from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The DRI is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, working under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- The DRI has also been designated as the lead agency for Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre (SCord).
- The Directorate is run by officers from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

9. The Stone Chariot in Hampi is situated within which of the following?

(a) Lotus Mahal Complex
(b) Pattabhirama Temple Complex
(c) Vijaya Vittala Temple Complex
(d) Hemakuta Group of Temples

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Iconic Stone chariot in Hampi is situated in front of the Vijaya Vittala Temple at the Vijaya Vittala Temple Complex.
- The famous Stone Chariot is shrine built like a chariot.
- The Vittala temple is built in the Dravidian style of architecture.

10. Consider the following statements.

1. Great Indian Bustards are classified as near threatened under IUCN classification.
2. Their habitats include swampy areas, mangroves, lakes.

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only.
(b) 2 only.
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Habitat- Dry scrublands and grasslands

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Scheduled Tribes:

1. The list of Scheduled Tribes are State/UT specific and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State
2. The Tharu Tribe belongs to terai lowlands of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar only.

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:

- Article 366 (25) of the Constitution refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the constitution.
- Article 342 says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes
- The list of Scheduled Tribes are State/UT specific and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.
- In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- The Tharu Tribe belongs to the Terai lowlands, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas.
- The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

2. In context to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly.
2. The World Investment Report is published by UNCTAD.

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 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body

established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

- Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was established to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- It is a central agency that monitors performance of Investment promotion Agencies (IPAs) and identifies global best practices.
- Some of the reports published by it are Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report, Global Investment Trend Monitor Report, The Least Developed Countries Report, Information and Economy Report, Technology and Innovation Report and Commodities and Development Report.

3. Consider the following, with regard to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar?

1. He established a newspaper called Harijan.
2. He was appointed by the Bombay Presidency Committee to work in the Simon Commission.
3. He participated in all three round-table conferences.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed every year on 6th December to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- He established a fortnightly newspaper "Mooknayak" in 1920 which laid the foundations of an assertive and organised Dalit politics.
- Mahatma Gandhi began publishing Harijan, a weekly newspaper, in English in 1933. It lasted until 1948. During this time, he also published Harijan Bandu in Gujarati, and Harijan Sevak in Hindi.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923), devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden.
- He was appointed by the Bombay Presidency Committee to work in the Simon Commission in 1925.
- Ambedkar also led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- The Kalaram Temple Movement of 1930 formed a pivotal role in the Dalit movement in India in which Ambedkar led a protest outside the Kalaram temple which did not allow Dalits to enter the temple premises.
- He participated in all three round-table conferences.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. LiDAR is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the Earth.
2. LiDAR uses ultraviolet, visible, or near-infrared light to image objects.
3. LiDAR can target a wide range of materials, including non-metallic objects, chemical compounds and single molecules.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

1. The Crime in India report is the comprehensive statistics of crime across the country published by the NCRB.
2. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project is implemented by NCRB.
3. 'Prison Statistics of India' is the only annual statistical publication started by NCRB.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- National Crime Records Bureau, headquartered in New Delhi, was set up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project is implemented by NCRB.
- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) is a project initiated in June 2009 which aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing at the Police Station level.
- 'Prison Statistics of India' is the only annual statistical publication started by NCRB, other publications having been started prior to the constitution of NCRB and continued by NCRB.
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country in its 'Crime in India' report.

6. Consider the following statements with respect to Lakshadweep:

1. Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to be declared a 100% organic agricultural area.
2. Under the union government's 'One District One Product' programme of food processing, the entire island is being considered as a single district.
3. In the island, Tobacco has been identified as the product under the 'One District One Product' programme of food processing.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to be declared a 100% organic agricultural area.
- Under the union government's 'One District One Product' programme of food processing, the entire island is being considered as a single district.
- Coconut Oil has been identified as the product under the 'One District One Product' programme of food processing.

7. With reference to the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. In the Kesavananda Bharati verdict, the SC did not define any of the principles as basic structure and defined only after the further case verdicts.
2. The court held that under Article 368, which provides Parliament amending powers, something must remain of the original Constitution that the new amendment would change.
3. Federalism and secularism are also included in the basic structure of the Indian Constitution.

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:

- The court did not define the 'basic structure', and only listed a few principles — federalism, secularism, democracy — as being its part. Since then, the court has been adding new features to this concept. So, statement 1 is not correct and statement 3 is correct.
- The court held that under Article 368, which provides Parliament amending

- powers, something must remain of the original Constitution that the new amendment would change. So, statement 2 is correct.

8. India is member to which of the following organisations

1. ASEAN
2. RCEP
3. BIMSTEC
4. SAARC

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. India was never been a member of ASEAN.
- India dropped out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in November 2019 at ASEAN+3 summit, because of increasing trade deficits with partner nations and increasing China-India tensions.
- India is a member of both BIMSTEC and SAARC.

9. With reference to the Inner Line Permit, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
2. At present five North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
3. ILP is only for the citizens of India and foreigners are not included in the laws of Inner line Permit.

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:

- It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system. So, statement 1 is correct.
- At present, four North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- The demand by Tribal organisations of Meghalaya for ILP system to restrict the entry of outsiders into the State has turned into violent protests

- Both the duration of stay and the areas allowed to be accessed for any non-native are determined by the ILP.
- The ILP is issued by the concerned state government and can be availed both by applying online and in person.
- An ILP is only valid for domestic tourists. For foreign tourists in:
- Manipur: No permit is required. But, have to register themselves.
- Mizoram: No permit is required. But, need to register.
- Nagaland: No permit is required. However, they need to register.
- Arunachal Pradesh: Tourists need a Protected Area Permit (PAP) or Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- So, statement 3 is correct.

10. With reference to the differences between the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), consider the following statements:

1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

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 NGT was established by the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 whereas the CPCB has been created by the Water act, 1974. So, statement 1 is not correct.

1. In context to the 'Participatory Guarantee System', consider the following statements:

1. It is a process of certifying organic products on quality standards.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public.
3. Sikkim is the first State or Union Territory to become 100% organic.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is only for farmers or communities that can organise and perform as a group within a village or a cluster of contiguous villages, and is applicable only to farm activities such as crop production, processing, and livestock rearing, and off-farm processing "by PGS farmers of their direct products".
- Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environmentally-friendly activity.
- Earlier in 2016, Sikkim became India's first "100 percent organic" State.

2. Consider the following, WITH reference to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):

1. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar are the member nations of SAARC.
2. The secretariat of SAARC is located in Kathmandu.

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 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was formed to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life, and to accelerate economic growth, among other things.

- Eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The Secretariat of SAARC is located in Kathmandu (Nepal). SAARC Charter Day is observed annually on 8th December.
- This day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka (Bangladesh).

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to Mount Everest:

1. It is known as Mount Qomolangma in China.
2. It lies at the border of Nepal and Tibet.
3. It was first scaled in 1953 by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Mount Everet is also known as Sagarmatha in Nepal and Mount Qomolangma in China.
- The mountain lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet and the summit can be accessed from both sides.
- It gets its English name from Sir George Everest, a colonial-era geographer who served as the Surveyor General of India in the mid-19th century.
- It was first scaled in 1953 by the Indian-Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealander Edmund Hillary.

4. Cabinet has recently given nod for setting up Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) architecture; consider the following statements regarding it:

1. The new pilot project (WANI) will be operated by private players only.
2. There would be no credential exchange in this system.

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:

- A single interoperable platform that will enable the delivery of data and WiFi services to all Indians is the heart of India's new Digital Communications Policy (2018–2022).
- TRAI is inviting participation from companies/entities in the country to help set up a nation-wide interoperable WiFi

network in form of Public Data Offices (PDOs) across the country.

- The new pilot project named Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) will run on a partnership model.
- Small entrepreneurs and shop owners can set up WiFi hotspots (or PDOs) by acquiring bandwidth from multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and re-selling bandwidth as data to end customers at a cheaper rate.
- The pilot project of WANI will accept any company, proprietorship, societies, NGOs, etc. to help set up paid public WiFi access points across the country using a shared model. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- These companies will be able to purchase bandwidth from Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs)—a bandwidth aggregator which aggregates spectrum from multiple ISPs and provide them to PDO owners at cheaper rates.
- In this manner, the cost of setting up WiFi infrastructure will be shared without PDOs requiring registering for a telecom license.
- Wifire, PayTM, Linq and C-DOT have created WANI enabled mobile apps for consumers.
- **WANI Mission:** Existing ISPs and telcos do not have any form of incentive push to deliver WiFi services in rural locations. Hence in addition to existing service providers, small providers can also enter the public Wi-Fi ecosystem and have the capability and incentives to provide public Wi-Fi on a small scale.
- Today, many hotspots operate on the principle of "OTP" (one-time passwords) which provide access for a limited time. Such hazards will be done away with the WANI architecture. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

5. With Respect to Protected Agriculture Zone, consider the following statements:

1. Declaring as the Protected Special Agriculture Zone ensures that particular region will not be granted permission for any new projects like those related to hydrocarbons.
2. Only Agro based Industries would be given permission to be built.
3. Tamil Nadu is the First state to declare a region as the Protected Agriculture Zone.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are correct.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Loan moratorium refers to a particular period of a loan tenure during which the borrower does not have repay anything and is waived off from all loan amounts.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank have to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have.
3. The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets to be called as statutory liquidity ratio.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Loan moratorium** period refers to a particular period of a loan tenure during which the borrower does not have repay anything. It can be described as a waiting period before the borrower will have to start paying the equated monthly instalments (EMIs) for his or her loan. It doesn't mean that he is completely waived off his loans. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **CRR or Cash Reserve Ratio** corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank has to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have. For example, say if State Bank of India (SBI) got a total deposit of Rs. 1 crore with them, they need to keep 4 % of that as cash reserve with RBI (around 4 lakh rupees). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets such as G-secs, precious metals, approved securities etc. The Ratio of these liquid assets to the total demand and time liabilities is called **Statutory Liquidity Ratio**. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

7. In the context to Wi-Fi and Internet, consider the following statements:

1. Wi-Fi is a technology, whereas the Internet is the global communication system.
2. Wi-Fi connects the internet to the computer, whereas the internet connects different computers with one network.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both are the exact differences between the Wi-Fi and Internet.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Uttar Pradesh has the longest network of National Highways in India.
2. National Highway 44 (NH 44) is the longest-running National Highway in India.
3. NH 44 passes through Uttar Pradesh.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- National Highway 44 (NH 44) is the longest-running major north-south National Highway in India.
- It passes through the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Uttar Pradesh has the longest network of National Highways in India.

9. Consider the following pairs:

1. Burevi – Iran
2. Gati – India
3. Amphan – Bangladesh
4. Nivar – Maldives

Which of these are correctly matched?

(a) 2 only

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 3 and 4 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Cyclone Burevi was named by the Maldives, Gati by India, Amphan by Thailand and Nivar by Ira

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:

1. It is situated in the south bank of the river Brahmaputra.
2. It is bound by Dibru River in the south.
3. The Park is renowned for the natural regeneration of Salix trees.
4. It is a designated biosphere reserve.

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

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

1. 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**.

2. Which of the following belongs to the Quad grouping?

(a) South Korea, India, United States and Australia
(b) Japan, India, United States and South Korea
(c) Russia, India, United States and Australia
(d) Japan, India, United States and Australia

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- The idea was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):

1. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
2. It is not mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
3. As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The UID number will also be printed on the card.

4. Arrange the tributaries of Ganga River system from west to east:

1. Damodar
2. Bhagirathi
3. Son
4. Chambal

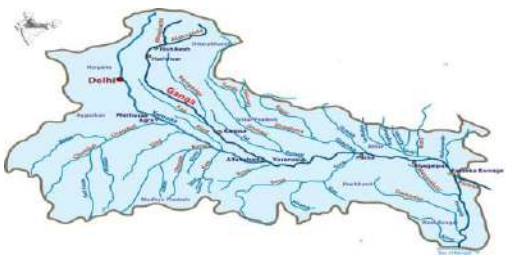
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Ganga is the most important river of India both from the point of view of its basin and cultural significance.
- It **rises from the Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh** (3,900 m) in the **Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand**. Here, it is known as the **Bhagirathi**.
- The important tributaries of Ganga are the **Ramganga, the Gomati, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, the Kosi and the Mahanada**.
- The river finally discharges itself into the **Bay of Bengal near the Sagar Island**.



5. Consider the following statements, with reference to Lunar missions:

1. Beresheet 2 project of Israel is aimed at landing a manned craft on the moon in 2024.
2. The Artemis program of NASA aims to send the first woman and the next man to the moon by 2024.
3. Chandrayaan-3 will be launched by ISRO in 2021.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, Israel launched the Beresheet 2 project aimed at landing an unmanned craft on the moon in 2024. Earlier, Israel's Beresheet probe crash landed on the Moon. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Artemis is a crewed spaceflight program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that has the goal of landing "the first woman and the next man" on the Moon, specifically at the lunar south pole region by 2024. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India has planned a new moon mission named Chandrayaan-3. It is likely to be launched in early 2021.

6. Consider the following, with regard to application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India:

1. Nightingale-19 Robot in Kerala uses AI to predict cyclones.
2. FebriEye screening system uses AI to monitor high fever in Maharashtra.

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

- As per a report by PwC (a global network of firms), India reported a 45% increase in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the highest among all countries, following the outbreak of the virus.
- In Kerala Srishti Robotics' 'Nightingale-19 Robot' is a good example of use of AI. It delivers food and medicines in bulk and also allows doctors and other healthcare practitioners to use video interactive technologies to interact with patients. In Maharashtra FebriEye is an AI based thermal screening system for real-time and automated, non-intrusive monitoring to ensure that a person entering does not have a high fever. It has been installed in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai.

7. In context to the Partners in Population and Development (PPD), consider the following statements:

1. The initiative aims for expanding and improving South-South Cooperation in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.
2. It was launched at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.
3. The secretariat of PPD is located in New Delhi.

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: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has digitally addressed the Inter-Ministerial Conference by Partners in Population and Development (PPD).
- It is an intergovernmental initiative created specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South-South Cooperation in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.
- PPD was launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and

- Development (ICPD), when ten developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America formed an intergovernmental alliance to help implement the Cairo Program of Action (POA).
- The PPD is an alliance of 27 developing countries. India is a member country. Its secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Exchange Traded Funds:

1. It is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges.
2. They offer anytime liquidity through the exchanges.
3. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, bonds or commodities.
4. ETF reflects the composition of an Index.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Exchange-Traded Fund is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges.
- They offer anytime liquidity through the exchanges.
- An ETF holds assets such as stocks, bonds or commodities (such as gold bars).
- An Exchange Traded Fund is a basket of stocks that reflects the composition of an Index, like the Sensex or the Nifty.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

1. It aims at providing widespread and non-discriminatory access to quality Information and communications technology (ICT) services at affordable prices to people in unconnected areas, especially in rural and remote areas.
2. It has been granted statutory status.
3. Funds for this come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) aims at providing widespread and non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at affordable prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 gave statutory status to the USOF.

- Funds come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) of 5% charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) which are then deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India, and require prior parliamentary approval to be Dispatched.

10. What is the classification of Indian Bison/ Gaur in the IUCN Red List?

(a) Endangered

(b) Critically Endangered

(c) Vulnerable

(d) Near Threatened

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The gaur, also known as Indian bison is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

UPSC DECEMBER - 2020
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 12

1. 'Fridays for Future' recently seen in news is related to

(a) A scheme introduced by GOI to involve students in sports.

(b) A movement to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.

(c) A cancer awareness programme done by school students.

(d) A movement against the global terrorism.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Fridays for Future is a movement that began in August 2018, after 15 years old Greta Thunberg sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks, **to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Improving the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels.
2. Increasing the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030.
3. Enhancing its forest cover, thereby absorbing 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Which of the following is/are India's Emission Intensity Targets regarding the Paris Deal?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In 2015, ahead of the United Nations' significant climate conference in Paris, India announced three major voluntary commitments called the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):

✓ Improving the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels;

✓ Increasing the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030,

✓ Enhancing its forest cover, thereby absorbing 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

- At present India had achieved 21% of its emissions intensity as a proportion of its GDP in line with its commitment to a 33-35% reduction by 2030.

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.

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:

- 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 1 is not correct.**

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Typically, if a person is arrested, then he/she enjoy certain rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution. The person has to be informed of the reason for the arrest. Under Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the person arrested has to be informed.
- However, in the case of the NSA, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
- Sections 56 and 76 of the same penal code guarantee the detained person to be produced before a court within 24 hours. Apart from this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above-mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.
- So both the statements are correct.

5. With respect to the No-confidence motion, consider the following statements:

1. A confidence motion or a vote of confidence or a trust vote, is sought by the government in power on the floor of the House, while a no-confidence motion can be sought by any House member to express that they no longer have confidence in the government.
2. The Indian Constitution neither explicitly nor implicitly mentions about the No-

Confidence Motion rather it is mentioned in the rule book of the Lok Sabha.

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:

- A **confidence motion** or a **vote of confidence** or a **trust vote**, is sought by the government in power on the floor of the House.
- It enables the elected representatives to determine if the Council of Ministers commanded the confidence of the House.
- The idea underlying the trust vote is to uphold the political accountability of the elected government to the State legislature.
- A **no-confidence motion**, or **vote of no-confidence**, or a **no-trust vote**, can be sought by any House member to express that they no longer have confidence in the government. **So, Statement 1 is correct**.
- The Indian constitution does not mention no-confidence; however, **Article 75** specifies that the **council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People**. The implication of this Article is that the majority of Lok Sabha MPs must not be against the prime minister and his cabinet. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

6. Which of these airports was tagged the "World's emptiest airport"?

(a) Ratmalana International Airport

(b) Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport

(c) Bandaranaike International Airport

(d) Batticaloa International Airport

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in southern Sri Lanka holds the dubious tag of being the world's emptiest airport due to lack of flights to and from this airport.

7. Which of these Wildlife Sanctuaries is known as "Mini Kaziranga"?

(a) Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary

(b) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

(c) Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary

(d) Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- It is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district in Assam.

8. Consider the following statements with reference to Kathakali:

1. It is a well-known dance drama from the state of Kerala whose movements are influenced by ancient martial arts and athletic tradition
2. It is performed by Male dancers only

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Kathakali has always been considered a male art form.
- History proves that though women were not welcome during the years when Kathakali made its mark as an art, it still could not stop women from being a part of it.
- Although many women were attracted to Kathakali and learned it, to perform on stage they had to create their own space.
- That resulted in women-only groups formed in different parts of Kerala. They succeeded in staging Kathakali plays and created a parallel space for Kathakali and women.

9. Herod's Palace recently seen in news is in which country?

(a) Iran
(b) Indonesia
(c) Israel
(d) Japan

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Israeli authorities are set to unveil previously off-limits structures within King Herod's palace-fortress Herodium
- Herod's Palace at Jerusalem was built by Herod I the Great, King of Judea

10. The only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea is

(a) Algeria
(b) Mauritania
(c) Morocco
(d) Libya

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Morocco borders Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- It is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Malaria:

1. It is caused by a protozoan called Plasmodium falciparum.
2. The Protozoan enters the human body through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquito.
3. The parasite attacks the white blood cells and ruptures them.

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: a)

Explanation:

- Malaria is caused by Plasmodium (a protozoan).
- Malaria caused by Plasmodium falciparum is the most serious one and can even be fatal.
- Plasmodium enters the human body as sporozoites (infectious form) through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquito. The parasites initially multiply within the liver cells and then attack the Red Blood Cells (RBCs) resulting in their rupture. The rupture of RBCs is associated with release of a toxic substance, hemozoin, which is responsible for the chill and high fever recurring every three to four days.

2. In context to Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati, consider the following statements:

1. He is involved with the extremist wing of the Indian National Congress.
2. He participated in the Surat Session of Indian National Congress in 1907.

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 Prime Minister has addressed the International Bharati Festival 2020, virtually organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre (Tamil Nadu). The event celebrates the 138th birth anniversary (11th December 2020) of Tamil poet and writer Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati.
- Involvement during Nationalist Period:
- After 1904, he joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran.
- This exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the Indian National Congress (INC) party.
- In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the weekly newspaper named ‘India’ printed in red paper.
- It was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons.

- He also published and edited a few other journals like "Vijaya".
- He attended the annual sessions of INC and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer.
- His participation and activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907) of the INC impressed many national leaders for his patriotic fervour.

3. Consider the following, with reference to Delimitation Commission:

1. It is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
2. It determines the number and boundaries of constituencies to make the population of all Constituencies nearly equal.
3. Its orders of Commission cannot be Questioned before any court.

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

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

Functions:

- To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal.
- To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

4. The United Kingdom comprises of which of the following places?

1. England
2. Wales
3. Ireland
4. Scotland

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United **Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern**

Ireland, is an island nation in north western Europe.

- **Northern Ireland comes under UK. Ireland is a separate country**. So it is not a part of United Kingdom.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Brexit Withdrawal agreement':

1. Under this agreement, a transition period of 11 months has finalised until December 2020.

2. During this period, the U.K. will continue to participate in the EU's Customs Union and in the Single Market.
3. The U.K. will apply EU law even if it is no longer a Member State and will also continue to abide by the international agreements of the EU.

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:

- Under the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, a transition period of 11 months has finalised until December 2020. However, it might get delayed until 2022 or 2023.
- During this period, the U.K. will continue to participate in the EU's Customs Union and in the Single Market.
- The U.K. will apply EU law even if it is no longer a Member State and will also continue to abide by the international agreements of the EU.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**
- The transition period makes sure that there is not a sudden shock but a degree of continuity and allows both parties to secure an orderly Brexit, minimising disruption for the citizens, businesses, public administrations, as well as for the International Partners.

6. With respect to the Indian Gaur, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Gaur is the largest and the tallest in the family of wild cattle and is a grazing animal.

2. It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List, Schedule I under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
3. It is also the state animal of Goa.

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 Indian Gaur or Bison (Bos gaurus) is the largest and the tallest in the family of wild cattle and is a grazing animal.
- **Threats:**

➢ **Food Scarcity:**

✓ The destruction in the grasslands has led to the decline in availability of food for these animals.

✓ Due to the planting of commercially important trees, the lush grassland has diminished which is the prime source of fodder for this wild cattle.

✓ They have to fight for their food due to indiscriminate grazing of domestic animals in the areas.

➢ **Poaching:**

✓ The illegal hunting of the Indian bison is done for their commercial value as well as due to the high demand of gaur meat in the illegal market of India-Nepal border.

- It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List, Schedule I under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- Nowadays, this animal is kept well and protected in some of the famous national parks of India like Nagarhole, Bandipur, Kabini and Masinagudi (Mudumalai).
- It is also the state animal of Goa.
- **So all the three statements are correct.**

7. Which among the following statements are correct about the removal of the judge of a Supreme Court of India?

1. The judge of the Supreme Court may be removed from his current office by an order of the President.
2. There are only two grounds of removal, incapacity or proved misbehaviour.
3. So far, no judge of the Supreme Court has been removed by impeachment.
4. The procedure for the removal of the judges is regulated by the Judges Enquiry Act (1968).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are factual regarding the removal of the Judge of the Supreme Court.

8. Which among the following belong to Snow Leopard range countries?

1. Russia
2. Mongolia
3. India
4. Iran
5. Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The elusive snow leopard inhabits parts of 12 countries:
- Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

9. Consider the following statements about Climate Action Summit.

1. The key focus of the summit is to accelerate the actions to implement the Rio declaration.
2. ActNow is the United Nations campaign for individual action on climate change and sustainability.

Which of the following statement/s is true?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The key focus of the summit is to accelerate the actions to implement the Paris Agreement.
- The Act Now campaign was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24) in December 2018

10. Sahrawi tribe is associated with which of the following countries?

(a) Botswana
(b) Kenya
(c) Mauritania
(d) Democratic Republic of Congo

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sahrawi tribe are people living in the western part of the Sahara Desert.
- It includes Western Sahara, southern Morocco, much of Mauritania and the extreme Southwest of Algeria.

1. Brus/Reangs are recognised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in which of these state/s?

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

Choose the correct option:

(a) 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Brus are spread across the north-eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by the Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- PVTGs reside in 18 States and the UT of A&N Islands.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

1. It is an international organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. It has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice.
3. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
4. Program of Action for Cancer Therapy is one of its key programmes.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency is an international organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.
- It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

(b)

- Program of Action for Cancer Therapy is one of its key programmes. It was launched in 2004 to build upon its experience in radiation medicine and technology, and enable developing countries to introduce, expand or improve their cancer care capacity and services in a sustainable manner by integrating radiotherapy into a comprehensive cancer control programme that maximizes its therapeutic effectiveness and impact.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Minsk Group was established to envisage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
2. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as a part of Armenia.
3. The major ethnic group in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is Armenian.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan.
- The major ethnic group of the region is Armenian.
- The Minsk Group or the OSCE Minsk Group was established in 1992 by the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE, now Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)) to envisage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.
- It is co-chaired by France, Russia and the USA.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Energy Conservation Day is an initiative of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
2. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency functions under the Ministry of Power.

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: a)

Explanation:

- The National Energy Conservation Day is organized on 14th December every year by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) with an aim to showcase India's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation.
- The National Energy Conservation Awards are given on the occasion.

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was set up as the statutory body in 2002 at the central level to facilitate the implementation of the EC Act.
- It functions under the Ministry of Power. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The Global Efforts for Energy Conservation include: International Energy Agency (IEA), The Paris Agreement, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and Mission Innovation.
- India is not a member country of the IEA but an association country.
- India is one of the member countries of Mission Innovation.

5. In context to 3D printing, consider the following statements:

1. It uses computer-aided designing to make working models of objects.
2. It is also called subtractive manufacturing.

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:

- 3D printing uses computer-aided designing to make prototypes or working models of objects by laying down successive layers of materials such as plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fibre or ceramic.
- With the help of software, the model to be printed is first developed by the computer, which then gives instructions to the 3D printer.
- The term "3D printing" is increasingly used as a synonym for Additive Manufacturing.
- 3D printing contrasts with subtractive manufacturing techniques such as carving or milling, in which an object is created by selectively removing parts from a piece of raw material).

6. Consider the following, with reference to Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):

1. It refers to the difference in sea-surface temperatures in opposite parts of the Indian Ocean.
2. The Positive IOD results in less cyclones than usual in Arabian Sea.

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 Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is often called the "Indian Niño" because of its similarity to its Pacific equivalent. It refers to the difference in sea-surface

temperatures in opposite parts of the Indian Ocean.

- Positive IOD (Arabian Sea warmer than Bay of Bengal) results in more cyclones than usual in Arabian Sea.
- While Negative IOD results in stronger than usual Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. Cyclonic activity in Arabian Sea is suppressed.
- Indian Ocean Dipole(IOD) effect demonstrated that a positive IOD index often negated the effect of El Nino, resulting in increased Monsoon rains in several El Nino years like the 1983, 1994 and 1997.
- Two poles of the IOD – the eastern pole (around Indonesia) and the western pole (off the African coast) were independently and cumulatively affecting the quantity of rains for the Monsoon in the Indian subcontinent.

7. 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 incorrect**.
- 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.**

8. With respect to the Delimitation Commission, which of the statements given above are correct?

1. Delimitation Commission is a temporary body constituted only after every census.
2. Delimitation will be done to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as per the rules of the

J&K Representation of the People Act 1957.

3. These bodies are so powerful that its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 has now been invalidated and, instead, delimitation to the UT of J&K will
- be done as per the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** (as amended from time to time) and provisions of Sections 59, 60 of Act 34 of 2019. **So, statement 2 is not correct**. These bodies are so powerful that its **orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court. So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Bifurcation of J&K into two UTs has led to redrawing of Assembly constituency boundaries. While, the UT of Ladakh will not have its own legislature, J&K will. This would be similar to Puducherry or Delhi.
- They are constituted after every Census. However, such delimitation was also necessitated in 2014 when Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were bifurcated. **So, statement 1 is not correct**.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Water Development Agency is responsible for the formulation of proposals of the linking of rivers.
2. NWDA was tasked to prepare feasibility reports and give concrete shape to Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective.
3. The task of Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspectives is done by the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA).

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** is responsible for the formulation of proposals of the linking of rivers. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- NWDA is the agency of the Union Ministry of Water Resources. It was set up in July, 1982 as autonomous society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It was established to carry out the water balance and other studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilisation of Water Resources of the peninsular rivers system.
- Besides it was tasked to prepare feasibility reports and give concrete shape to Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 1990, it was also entrusted with the task of Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspectives.
- Recently, the functions of NWDA have been further modified and the work of preparation of detailed Project Reports (DPR) of various link proposals and Pre-feasibility Reports.
- It has been also entrusted to prepare feasibility reports of intra-State links as proposed by the States.
- The Central government is just working on the establishment of an exclusive body named **National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)** to implement projects for linking rivers. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

10. In the context to the Encryption of messages, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Encryption technology involves scrambling or jumbling of the data being transferred in such a way that it can be deciphered or read only by the sender and the receiver
2. Once the data leaves the starting point, it gets encrypted, and then it can be decrypted only at its intended destination and nowhere in between the sender and the receiver.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **End-to-End Encryption (E2EE)** is a new security feature that keeps the people's information out of the hands of hackers and cyber-criminals.

- Encryption technology involves scrambling or jumbling of the data being transferred in such a way that it can be deciphered only by the sender and the receiver. **So, statement 1 is correct**.
- In a communication system with end-to-end encryption feature, once the data leaves the starting point, it gets encrypted, and then it can be decrypted only at its intended destination and nowhere in between. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the first step, when a sender sends a message, it is in the form of Plaintext that is ordinary readable text.
- Second, as soon as the data gets onto the network, it gets encrypted that is a process of converting ordinary readable text into a code with the help of special keys (a very long string of numbers generated by the software).
- Third when the same data reaches its intended destination, it is decrypted that is a process of converting back the coded data to readable text with the help of special keys.
- Finally, the intended receiver gets the message in the form of Cipher text that is the readable text obtained after decryption.

1. With reference to database of migrant workers, consider the following statements:

1. ASEEM portal maintains a central repository of migrant workers.
2. The National Migrant Information System (NMIS) has been developed by the National Disaster Management Authority.

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 Government has decided to create a database of migrant workers, including workers in the informal economy.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)' portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Database of labour migrants in Indian states and overseas citizens, who returned to India under the Vande Bharat Mission and filled SWADES Skill Card, has been integrated with the ASEEM portal.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online dashboard called 'National Migrant Information System (NMIS)'.
- The online portal (NMIS) would maintain a central repository of migrant workers and help in speedy inter-state communication to facilitate the smooth movement of migrant workers to their native places.

2. Consider the following statements, with regard to Cuba:

1. The San Isidro Movement (MSI) is going on against the censorship of artistic work in this country.
2. It is the largest island country in the Caribbean region.
3. It is situated at the intersection of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Movimiento San Isidro, or the San Isidro Movement (MSI), started two years ago (2018) to protest state censorship of artistic work through Decree 349.
- Decree 349 is a law that would have given powers to the Cuba's Government to restrict cultural activity it did not approve of.

- To protest against the decree, artists, poets, journalists and activists gathered in San Isidro, a Black-majority locality that is among Havana's poorest yet most culturally active regions
- Cuba is the largest single island of the archipelago of the Caribbean region. It is situated just south of the Tropic of Cancer at the intersection of the Atlantic Ocean (north and east), the Gulf of Mexico (west), and the Caribbean Sea (south).
- Hence, option B is correct.

3. Which of the following countries share the land boundary with Israel?

1. Egypt
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, Israel has established diplomatic ties with Bhutan.
- Israel borders Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Palestinian territories of West Bank and the Gaza Strip; it shares maritime borders with Cyprus.
- It also shares its border with Mediteranean sea.

4. With respect to the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD), consider the following statements:

1. BTAD includes four districts of western and northern Assam which comprises of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri.
2. The President is the constitutional head of the BTAD that falls under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and is administered by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
3. The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution are exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- BTAD includes four districts of western and northern Assam which comprises of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The State's Governor is the constitutional head of the BTAD that falls under the Sixth

- Schedule of the Constitution and is administered by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution were also exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 which was passed recently. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) would include the villages which are dominated by Bodos but are outside BTAD presently. Villages with non-Bodo population would be excluded from it.
- Bodos living in the hills are conferred a Scheduled Hill Tribe status.
- Bodo language with Devanagari script is the associate official language for the entire Assam.

5. 'Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa', are places sometimes seen in news. They are related to which of the following?

(a) Recently discovered Uranium deposits
(b) Underground cave systems
(c) Bodoland Disputed areas
(d) Water Reservoirs

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam, making up over 5-6 per cent of the state's population. They have controlled large parts of Assam in the past.
- The four districts in Assam — Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang — that constitute the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD), are home to several Ethnic Groups.

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

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

Select the correct answers using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Seeking to make the procedure to opt for postal ballot more convenient for those above 80 years of age and people with disabilities, the Election Commission has come out with a set of new instructions.

- The form required to opt for the postal ballot would be delivered at the residence of all those above 80 years of age and people with disabilities by the booth level officer under his polling station.
- It would be up to these two categories of voters to opt for postal ballot.
- Others who can avail the facility are as follows:

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

✓ In other words, they can't vote in person. Voters under preventive detention can also vote only by post.

✓ Special voters such as the President of India, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet ministers, Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty have the option to vote by post.

✓ But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.

7. India is member to which of the following organisations?

1. ASEAN
2. RCEP
3. BIMSTEC
4. SAARC

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. India was never been a member of ASEAN.
- India dropped out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in November 2019 at ASEAN+3 summit, because of increasing trade deficits with partner nations and increasing China-India tensions.
- India is a member of both BIMSTEC and SAARC.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Jhum cultivation:

1. Under this method, the cultivators cut the tree- tops to allow sunlight to reach the ground and burn the vegetation on the land to clear it for cultivation.
2. It is also known as slash and burn Agriculture.

3. Potash, the ash from the burning of the vegetation increases the nutrient content of the soil.
4. This form of cultivation has caused significant damage to the diversity of Indian forests.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Jhum cultivation, also known as the slash and burn type of agriculture, is the process of growing crops by clearing the land of trees and vegetation and then burning them before plantation.
- The burnt soil contains potash which increases the nutrient content of the soil.
- This form of cultivation has caused maximum damage to the diversity of Indian forests.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Myristica swamp treefrog:

1. It is an arboreal species known for exhibiting unique breeding behaviour.
2. It is endemic to the Western Ghats.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Myristica swamp treefrog is a rare arboreal species. These frogs are rare and elusive for the reason that they are arboreal and active only for a few weeks during their breeding season.
- The frog is endemic to the Western Ghats.
- They exhibit unique breeding behaviour. The breeding season, unlike for other frogs, starts in the pre-monsoon season (May) and ends before the monsoon becomes fully active in June.
- After breeding and egg-laying, they retreat back to the high canopies of the tree and remain elusive till next breeding season.

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

1. River Teesta is a tributary of the River Brahmaputra.
2. It flows through Sikkim and West Bengal.
3. It is known as Jamuna in Bangladesh.

Which of the given statement/s are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

1. Consider the following statements with respect to Malabar Tree Toad:

1. It is endemic to western ghats.
2. It is categorised as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
3. It spends most of its life on trees, coming to the ground only during the first monsoon showers to mate.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Malabar Tree Toad (Pedostibes tuberculosus) is a species endemic to the Western Ghats.
- It is also called warty Asian tree toad.
- It is a small species and is found in wet tree hollows or leaf bases containing water.
- It is an arboreal species, meaning it spends much of its life on a tree. It comes to the ground only during the first monsoon showers to mate.
- It is categorised as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

2. "Mucormycosis" recently seen in news is a:

(a) Fungal infection
(b) Viral disease
(c) Genetic disorder
(d) Bacterial infection

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Mucormycosis is any fungal infection caused by fungi in the order Mucorales.
- The disease is often characterized by hyphae growing in and around blood vessels and can be potentially life-threatening in diabetic or severely Immunocompromised individuals.
- Mucormycosis frequently infects the sinuses, brain, or lungs. While infection of the oral cavity or brain are the most common forms of mucormycosis, the fungus can also infect other areas of the body such as the gastrointestinal tract, skin, and other organ systems.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Presidential elections in India:

1. Nominated members of the houses of the parliament cannot vote in the presidential election.
2. The value of the vote of the member of a legislative assembly is dependent on the population of the state or union territory.
3. The voting is done by an open ballot system.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Following members do not participate in the election of the President:
- Nominated members of both Houses of Parliament.
- Nominated members of the legislative assemblies of the States
- Nominated members of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and
- Nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies (Delhi and Puducherry.
- The value of the vote of the member of a legislative assembly is directly proportional to the population of the state and inversely proportional to the number of elected members of the assembly.
- The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is done by secret ballot system.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP.
3. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute (ICAR), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops.

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:

- The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). **So, statement 1 is correct**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. Human Development Index 2020 was released recently by which of the following?

(a) UNESCO

(b) World Economic Forum

(c) UN Development Programme

(d) Organization for economic cooperation and development

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Human Development Index 2020 was released recently.
- According to the report, India dropped two ranks in the United Nations' Human Development Index this year, standing at 131 out of 189 countries.
- However, if the Index were adjusted to assess the planetary pressures caused by each nation's development, India would move up eight places in the ranking, according to the report.
- For the first time, the United Nations Development Programme introduced a new metric to reflect the impact caused by each country's per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint, which measures the
- amount of fossil fuels, metals and other resources used to make the goods and services it consumes.

6. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. The leader of an elephant group is female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Calves generally live with the mother till they are five years old after which the males leave the herd but the females remain. Statement 1 is correct and Statement 3 is incorrect.
- Elephants have the longest gestation period of all mammals. These gentle giants' pregnancies last for more than a year and a half. The average gestation period of an elephant is about 640 to 660 days, or roughly 95 weeks. Statement 2 is correct.
- Karnataka has the highest number of elephants in India. Statement 4 is incorrect.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Name of Missile - Type

1. K-4 Missile - Submarine launched ballistic Missile
2. Akash - Surface to Air Missile
3. Nag - Anti Tank guided missile

Which of the following pair(s) is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three are Correct.

8. Consider the following statements, with reference to Himalayan Serow:

1. It is found in the Eastern, Western and Trans- Himalayan region.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A Himalayan serow is a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair.
- Recently, It has been sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region (Spiti, Himachal Pradesh).
- The Himalayan serow resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
- They are typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres. They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) Organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. GRIHA is India's own green building rating system conceived by The Energy and Resources Institute.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the inaugural session of the 12th Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Summit was organised virtually. It is the national rating system of India for any completed building construction.
- GRIHA is recognised as India's own green building rating system in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- GRIHA was conceived by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and developed jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- There are other such related Initiatives like Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) Organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- GHTC aims to identify and mainstream best available and proven construction technologies that are sustainable, green and disaster-resilient to enable a paradigm shift in Housing Construction.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The allied forces consisting of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini defeated Pakistan in the Kargil war.
2. Vijay Diwas marks the victory of Indian armed forces in the Kargil war.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Vijay Diwas is observed on 16th December every year to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- The Government of India decided on 3rd December 1971, that India would go for war with Pakistan to save Bengali Muslims and Hindus. This war was fought between India and Pakistan for 13 days.
- On 16th December 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces with 93,000 soldiers had surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini in Dhaka. Mukti Bahini refers to the armed organizations that fought against the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh Liberation War. It was a guerrilla resistance movement.

1. In context to the Quality Council of India (QCI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established by the act of the Parliament.
2. The Department of Science and Technology is the nodal ministry for QCI.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up in 1997 by Government of India jointly with Indian Industry as an autonomous body to establish and operate the National Accreditation Structure for conformity assessment bodies. It is not a statutory body.
- The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal ministry for QCI.
- QCI is a pioneering experiment of the Government of India in setting up organizations in partnership with the Indian industry. Indian industry is represented in QCI by three premier industry associations namely Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and FICCI.

2. Consider the following statements, with regard to freedom of press:

1. It is implicitly protected under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Press Council of India is a constitutional body formed to preserve the freedom of the press.
3. India is ranked among top countries in the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI).

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: a)

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India, the supreme law of the land, guarantees freedom of speech and expression under Article 19, which deals with 'Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
- Freedom of press is not expressly protected by Indian legal system but it is impliedly protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".
- Press Council of India (PCI) is a regulatory body established under the Press Council of India Act of 1978. It is a statutory, quasi-judicial body which acts as a watchdog of the press

- It aims to preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.
- The Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes annually a World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) purporting to evaluate the level of freedom available to the media in 180 countries.
- India has dropped to two places on the World Press Freedom Index, 2020 to be ranked 142nd out of 180 countries.

3. Consider the following:

1. Greater genetic diversity increases plant resistance to pathogens.
2. Cultivation of pulses requires more fertilisers than rice and wheat.
3. Pusa-44 is a high yield variety of wheat.

Which of the statement given above are not correct:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Amidst the ongoing farmer's protests, questions are being raised on the sustainability of paddy-wheat cultivation, especially in Punjab. There are several reasons for this:

Monoculture in Punjab:

- Monoculture is the agricultural practice of growing a single crop, plant, or livestock species, variety, or breed in a field or farming system at a time.
- Wheat and paddy constitute about 84.6% of the total area planted to all crops compromising on pulses, maize, bajra and oilseeds cotton.
- Problem of Monoculture:
- Growing the same crops year after year on the same land increases vulnerability to pest and disease attacks. The more the crop and genetic diversity, the more difficult it is for insects and pathogens to devise a way to pierce through plant resistance.
- Wheat and paddy cannot fix nitrogen, unlike pulses and legumes, that fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere.
- Their continuous cultivation without any crop rotation, then, leads to depletion of soil nutrients and growing dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Thus they require more fertilisers than pulses.
- Paddy requires a huge amount of water.
- Punjab's groundwater table has been declining by 0.5 meters per annum on an average due to paddy and the state's policy of supplying free power for irrigation. It has encouraged farmers to grow long-duration water-guzzling varieties of paddy like Pusa-44.

- Pusa-44 has a high yield of rice but a long duration growth period.
- Long duration means transplanting by mid-May (Peak Summer), to enable harvesting from October and timely planting of the next wheat crop. But being peak summer time, it also translated into very high water requirements.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The right to protest, to publicly question and force the government to answer, is a fundamental political right of the people that flows directly from a democratic reading of **Article 19.**
- The courts have continuously reiterated that the right to protest is a fundamental right.
- One may examine and find that the word 'protest' is missing in the Indian Constitution. But Article 19 has mentioned it implicitly.
- For example, the right to free speech and expression may be taken to mean that everyone has a right to express their personal opinion on, say, a film, or on the condition of the city they inhabit.
- The right to associate to mean the right to form self-regulating clubs, professional associations or societies.
- The right of peaceful assembly to mean the right to have a picnic in a park or to participate in religious festivals.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Typically, if a person is arrested, then he/she enjoy certain rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution. The person has to be informed of the reason for the arrest. Under

Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the person arrested has to be informed.

- However, in the case of the NSA, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
- Sections 56 and 76 of the same penal code guarantee the detained person to be produced before a court within 24 hours. Apart from this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above-mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP.
3. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute (ICAR), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops.

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:

- The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). **So, statement 1 is correct**.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Response Force:

1. NDRF is a specialized force constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. The Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority is the Prime minister.
3. The responsibility of managing disasters in India is that of the central Government.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.**So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The responsibility of managing disasters India is that of the State Government. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The 'Nodal Ministry' in the central government for management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is under the National Disaster Management Authority. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a force of 12 battalions, organised on Para-military lines, and manned by persons on deputation from the Para-military forces of India: three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB. NDRF in addition to being able to respond to natural disasters has four battalions capable of responding to radiological, nuclear, biological and chemical disasters.
- The Apex Body for Disaster Management in India is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Collegium System:

1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges as per the provisions of the Constitution.
2. Collegium is a forum comprising of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
3. There was no mention of the Collegium in the original Constitution of India, it was added in the Constitution through Successive Amendments.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Collegium system is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- Collegium a forum comprising of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

- There is no mention of the Collegium either in the original Constitution of India or in successive amendments.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to S-400 Triumf:

1. It is a modern long-range surface-to-air missile system.
2. It can engage aerial targets such as aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), which are within the range of 400km.
3. S-400 was designed and developed by France.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The S-400 Triumf, (NATO calls it SA-21 Growler), is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- It can engage aerial targets such as aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), which are within the range of 400km.
- The missile system integrates a multifunction radar, autonomous detection and targeting systems, anti-aircraft missile systems, launchers, and command and control centre. It can provide a layered defence as it is capable of firing three types of missiles.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the Shore Temple:

1. It was built during the reign of the Pallava dynasty.
2. The Shore Temple complex is a part of the Mamallapuram monuments, designated a UNESCO World Heritage.
3. It overlooks the shore of Bay of Bengal.
4. It has been built in the Dravidian style.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The shore temple is located on the Coromandel Coast of Tamil Nadu. It overlooks the shore of Bay of Bengal.
- It was built during the reign of the Pallava dynasty.
- The Mamallapuram monuments and temples, including the Shore Temple complex, were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.
- It has been built in the Dravidian style.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Though states could come out with their own Bills to some extent to override the statutes of passed by the Parliament, none of those Bills would be effective unless the President accords his consent to such Bills.
2. It's the sole prerogative of the President whether to sign the state Bills or not.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme of Telangana is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana.
2. The project starts at the confluence point of Krishna River and Godavari River.
3. The project will also support Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha schemes designed to provide drinking water to many villages and improve the capacities of tanks.

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:

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme of Telangana is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, Telangana. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River. **So, statement 2 is not correct**.
- The project will also support Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha schemes designed to provide drinking water to many villages and improve the capacities of tanks. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. As per the 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019' arrange the states in the order of decreasing Forest Cover performance in India:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Karnataka
3. Kerala
4. Himachal Pradesh

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: a)

Explanation:

- The total forest cover of the country is 7, 12,249 sq km which is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country. The tree cover of the country is estimated as 95,027 sq km which is 2.89% of the geographical area.
- The total Forest and Tree cover of the country is 8, 07,276 sq km which is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country.
- The current assessment shows an increase of 3,976 sq km (0.56%) of forest cover, 1,212 sq km (1.29%) of tree cover and 5,188 sq km (0.65%) of forest and tree cover put together, at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2017.
- Forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area/Green Wash (RFA/GW) has shown a slight decrease of 330 sq km (0.05%) whereas there is an increase of 4,306 sq km of forest cover outside the RFA/GW as compared to previous assessment of 2017.
- The **top five States** in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Rakhine State is situated on the western coast of Myanmar.
2. Sittwe port is located in Rakhine State.
3. Rakhine state is bordered by Bangladesh and India to the northwest.

Which of the given statement is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Rakhine State is situated on the western coast of Myanmar.
- Sittwe port is located in Rakhine State. Sittwe Port is a deepwater port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State in Myanmar, on the Bay of Bengal. It is situated at the mouth of the Kaladan River.
- Rakhine state is bordered by Bangladesh to the northwest. It does not border India.

6. Consider the following statements with respect to enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA):

1. It detects and measures antibodies, hormones, peptides and proteins in the blood.
2. ELISA can provide a useful measurement of antigen-antibody concentration.
3. It is used to diagnose HIV and Zika virus.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- ELISA test is used to diagnose antibody-antigen interaction after certain virus infection to a person.
- ELISA is the basic assay technique, known as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (also referred to as EIA: Enzyme Immunoassay) that is carried out to detect and measure antibodies, hormones, peptides and proteins in the blood.
- ELISA can provide a useful measurement of antigen-antibody concentration.
- It is used to diagnose HIV that causes AIDS, Zika virus, etc.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Hydrology Project:

1. The project aims at improving the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
3. The National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) has been established under the project as a nationwide repository of water resources data.

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

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The National Hydrology Project (NHP) was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% grant to implementing agencies on a pan-India basis.
- The project aims at improving the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
- Thus, the NHP is facilitating the acquisition of reliable information efficiently which would pave the way for an effective water resource development and management.
- Under the Project, the National Water informatics Centre (NWIC) has been established, which is a nationwide repository of water resources data.
- The project aims at improving the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
- Thus, the NHP is facilitating the acquisition of reliable information efficiently which would pave the way for an effective water resource development and management. Under the Project, the National Water informatics Centre (NWIC) has been established, which is a nationwide repository of water resources data.

8. In context to New Development Bank, consider the following statements:

1. Its ownership structure is unique and no country has any veto power.
2. It has received an observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

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:

- Government has recently announced a 1 billion USD loan pact with New Development Bank (NDB) to boost rural employment and infrastructure.
- New Development Bank is a multilateral development bank jointly founded by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil in 2014.
- It was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology.
- Its ownership structure is unique, as the BRICS countries have an equal share and no country has any veto power.

- In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the United Nations.

9. Consider the following statements, with reference the Young Champions of the Earth prize

1. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2005.
2. The UNEP was established to guide and coordinate environmental activities within the United Nations (UN) system.
3. The Emission Gap Report is released by the UNEP.

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:

- A 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur is among the seven winners of the prestigious "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize given by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to global change-makers using innovative ideas and ambitious action to help solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- Introduced in 2017, Young Champions of the Earth aims to celebrate and support individuals aged between 18 and 30 who have outstanding potential to create a positive environmental impact.
- The UNEP established Champions of the Earth in 2005.
- The UNEP was established in 1972 to guide and coordinate environmental activities within the United Nations (UN) system.
- UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Major Reports released by UNEP: Emission Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.

10. With reference to National Hydrology Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to improve accessibility of water resources information.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and supported by the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Hydrology Project was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% grant to implementing agencies on pan India basis.

It Aims:

- To improve the extent, reliability and accessibility of water resources information.
- To strengthen the capacity of targeted water resource management institutions in India.
- To facilitate acquisition of reliable information efficiently which would pave the way for an effective water resource development and management.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and supported by the World Bank.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to Biofuels:

1. The energy content of bioethanol is the highest among all other gasoline.
2. Biobutanol and biohydrogen are produced through the fermentation process.
3. The E20 Fuel is a blend of 20% of ethanol with Gasoline.

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:

- Green fuel, also known as Biofuel, is a type of fuel distilled from plants and animal materials, believed by some to be more environmentally friendly than the widely-used fossil fuels that power most of the world. Some of the biofuels are:

Bioethanol

- It is derived from corn and sugarcane using the fermentation process. A litre of ethanol contains approximately two thirds of the energy provided by a litre of petrol.

Biobutanol

- It is produced in the same way as bioethanol i.e. through the fermentation of starch.
- The energy content in butanol is the highest among the other gasoline alternatives. It can be added to diesel to reduce emissions.

Biohydrogen

- Biohydrogen, like biogas, can be produced using a number of processes such as pyrolysis, gasification or biological fermentation.
- It can be the perfect alternative for fossil fuel.
- Recently, the Indian government has invited public comments for introducing adoption of E20 fuel to promote green fuel like ethanol.
- Composition: E20 fuel is a blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline.
- The current permissible level of blending is 10% of ethanol, though India reached only 5.6% of blending in 2019.

2. In context to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), consider the following statements:

1. A Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit is a circular orbit like a geo-stationary earth orbit.
2. A spacecraft is first launched into GTO before attaining geosynchronous earth orbits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) is highly elliptic. Its perigee (closest point to Earth) is typically as high as low Earth orbit (LEO), while its apogee (furthest point from Earth) is as high as geostationary (or equally, a geosynchronous) orbit.
- To attain geosynchronous (and also geostationary) Earth orbits, a spacecraft is first launched into the Geo -synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The satellite is injected precisely into its predefined sub- Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Eventually, it is placed into its specified slot in the Geo-Synchronous Orbit after a series of Manoeuvres.

3. Consider the following statement with reference to the Cryptocurrency?

1. Trading of virtual currencies (VC) is banned in India.
2. It is a decentralised virtual currency protected by cryptographic encryption techniques.
3. It is a government-issued currency that is not backed by any commodity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Cryptocurrency is a specific type of virtual currency, which is decentralised and protected by cryptographic encryption techniques.
- Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.
- Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol and is not issued by any central authority.
- Originally, Bitcoin was intended to provide an alternative to fiat money and become a universally accepted medium of exchange directly between two involved parties.
- Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity such as gold. Most modern paper currencies, such as the US dollar and Indian Rupee are fiat currencies.
- In April 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that entities regulated by it should not deal in virtual currencies or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling virtual currencies.
- However, the Supreme Court struck down the ban on trading of virtual currencies

(VC) in India, which was imposed by the RBI.

- The Supreme Court has held that cryptocurrencies are in the nature of commodities and hence they can not be banned.

4. Recently Pm has pitched for Simultaneous Elections to Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Panchayats and Urban local bodies, once in five year. In order to implement the same which of the amendments are needed?

1. Article 83 which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament
2. Article 85 on dissolution of Lok Sabha by the president
3. Article 172 relating to the duration of state legislatures
4. Article 174 relating to dissolution of state assemblies
5. Article 356 on President's Rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- For simultaneous elections to be implemented, Changes to be made in Constitution and Legislations:

Amendments needed in the following articles:

- Article 83 which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament need an amendment
- Article 85 (on dissolution of Lok Sabha by the president)
- Article 172 (relating to the duration of state legislatures)
- Article 174 (relating to dissolution of state assemblies)
- Article 356 (on President's Rule).
- The Representation of People Act, 1951 Act would have to be amended to build in provisions for stability of tenure for both parliament and assemblies. This should include the following crucial elements:
- Restructuring the powers and functions of the ECI to facilitate procedures required for simultaneous elections
- A definition of simultaneous election can be added to section 2 of the 1951 act.

5. Which among the following is/are the overlapping powers of Executive with Judiciary?

1. Making appointments to the office of Chief Justice and other judges.
2. Powers to grant pardons, reprieve, respite or remission of punishments or sentence of any person convicted of any offence.

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:

Overlapping Powers of the Executive:

WITH JUDICIARY	WITH LEGISLATIVE
• Making appointments to the office of Chief Justice and other judges. • Powers to grant pardons, reprieve, respite or remission of punishments or sentence of any person convicted of any offence. • The tribunals and other quasi-judicial bodies which are a part of the executive also discharge judicial functions.	• Power to promulgate ordinance which has the same force of the Act made by the Parliament or the State legislature. • Authority to make rules for regulating their respective procedure and conduct of business subject to the provisions of this Constitution. • Powers under delegated legislation.

6. Consider the following statements regarding PM KUSUM Scheme?

1. It enables farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.
2. The PM-KUSUM scheme would provide additional income to farmers, by giving them the option to sell additional power to the grid, through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.
3. It supports the financial health of DISCOMS by reducing the burden of subsidy to the agriculture sector.

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 farmer focus of PM-KUSUM has given a fillip to the farmer-oriented scheme involving decentralised solar power production up to 28,250 MW over a period of five years, known as KUSUM Scheme.
- The Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme would provide additional income to farmers, by giving them the option to sell additional power to the grid, through solar power projects set up on their barren lands.
- Government's Budget for 2020-21 expanded the scope for the scheme — with 20 lakh farmers to be provided assistance to install standalone solar pumps; another 15 lakh farmers to be given help to solarise their grid-connected pumpsets; and
- Enabling farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.

- While all this was happening, it also generated a serious debate on depleting water tables. As an environmentalist said, anything that is available free of cost, has its disadvantages.
- PM-KISAN consists of three components and aims to add a solar capacity of 30.8 GW by 2022:

- ✓ **Component-A:** 10,000 MW of decentralised ground mounted grid connected renewable power plants.
- ✓ **Component-B:** Installation of two million standalone solar powered agriculture pumps.
- ✓ **Component-C:** Solarisation of 1.5 million grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.

- The total central financial support provided under the scheme would be `34,000 crore.
- The objectives are:
  - ✓ Promote decentralised solar power production;
  - ✓ Reduce transmission losses;
  - ✓ Support the financial health of DISCOMS by reducing the burden of subsidy to the agriculture sector;
  - ✓ Help States meet the RPOs (renewable purchase obligation) targets;
  - ✓ Promote energy efficiency and water conservation;
  - ✓ Provide water security to farmers through provision of assured water sources through solar water pumps — both off-grid and grid connected;
  - ✓ Provide reliable power to utilise the irrigation potential created by State irrigation departments; and
  - ✓ Fill the void in solar power production in the intermediate range between rooftops and large parks.

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- There is no definition of generic or branded medicines under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under. However, generic medicines are generally those which contain same amount of same active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of

administration as that of branded medicine.

So, statement 1 is not correct.

- The price of an unbranded generic version of a medicine is generally lower than the price of a corresponding branded medicine because in case of generic version, the pharmaceutical company does not have to spend money on promotion of its brand.
- Drugs manufactured in the country, irrespective of whether they are generic or branded, are required to comply with the same standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under for their quality. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Human Freedom Index:

1. It is a global ranking of personal, civil and economic freedom.
2. The index is published annually by the United Nations Development Programme.
3. The index takes into account 3 indicators to rank 162 countries.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None of the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Human Freedom Index is a global ranking of personal, civil and economic freedom.
- The index is published by American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada.
- It takes into account 76 indicators of personal, civil, and economic freedoms to rank 162 countries.
- The scoring is done on a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 represents more Freedom.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to CMS-01 satellite:

1. Its applications range from telecommunication, disaster management support to satellite internet access.
2. Its coverage will include the Indian mainland and the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are correct.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR):

1. It is tasked with the implementation, follow-up, support and review of the Sendai Framework.
2. UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is published annually by UNDRR.
3. India is a member of UNDRR's Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE).

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction now in its current form is known as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- It is tasked with the implementation, follow-up, support and review of the Sendai Framework.
- UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is published once in two years by the UNDRR and is the product of the contributions of nations, public and private disaster risk-related science and research, and others.
- ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, is a network of private sector entities led by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- Members of ARISE include 140 countries worldwide including India, which joined it in 2019.

1. Consider the following, with reference to Mahanadi River:

1. It rises from a place in Madhya Pradesh to the south of Amarkantak.
2. The catchment area of the river basin extends over Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Mahanadi River system is the third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna, and the largest river of Odisha state.
- Mahanadi river rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak.
- The catchment area of the basin extends over major parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

2. Consider the following statements, with reference to Social Entrepreneurship:

1. It is a construct that blends the idea of a commercial enterprise with the tenets of a charitable nonprofit organization.
2. It is about creating business models to resolve social inequities.
3. It helps to succeed in economic initiatives by investments focusing on the social and Environmental Missions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Social Entrepreneurship is a construct that blends the idea of a commercial enterprise with the tenets of a charitable nonprofit organization.
- It is about creating business models revolving around low-cost products and services to resolve social inequities.
- It helps to succeed in economic initiatives, and all the investment focuses on the social and environmental mission.
- Social entrepreneurs are also called social innovators. They are the agents of change and create significant change using

- innovative ideas. They identify the problems and build the difference by their plan.
- Social entrepreneurship is a growing trend alongside socially responsible (SRI) and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investing.
- Examples of social entrepreneurship include educational programs, providing banking services in underserved areas and helping children orphaned by epidemic disease.

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:

1. The State Government can declare animals as vermin under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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:

- As per Section 62 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, states can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
- Wildlife laws divide species into 'schedules' ranked from I to V. Schedule I members are the best protected, in theory, with severe punishments meted out to those who hunt them.
- Wild boars, nilgai and rhesus monkeys are Schedule II and III members, it is also protected, but can be hunted under specific conditions.
- Rhesus Macaque monkeys are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The law allows for it to be hunted by declaring it 'vermin' for a specific period if it poses a danger to human life or property.

4. Consider the following statements with respect to Guru Tegh Bahadur:

1. He founded the city of Anandpur Sahib.
2. He is the 6th Guru of the Sikh religion.
3. He was beheaded on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Guru Tegh Bahadur is the ninth Guru of the Sikh religion.
- He founded the city of Anandpur Sahib in Punjab in 1665.
- He was beheaded on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb on 24 November 1675 in Delhi.
- Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib was built in 1783 at the place where he was beheaded.
- The mortal remains of Guru Tegh Bahadur were cremated at Gurudwara Rakabganj.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to the Information Management and Analysis Centre:

1. It is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion.
2. It is located in Andaman.
3. It was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai Terror Attacks.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) located in Gurugram is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion. It was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- It is jointly operated by the Navy and Coast Guard.
- It is located in Gurugram.

6. Consider the following pairs:

1. Thang-Ta: Assam
2. Kalaripayattu: Karnataka
3. Gatka: Punjab

Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Thang-Ta is a popular term for the ancient Manipuri Martial Art known as Huyen langlon.
- Kalaripayattu is a traditional martial art form originating from Kerala.
- Gatka originates from the state of Punjab. It is a traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors and is used in self-defence as well as sport.

7. Which of the place was recently declared as a "maritime and start-up hub" in India?

(a) Kochi
(b) Lakshadweep Islands
(c) Mumbai
(d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Prime Minister has declared that the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** will be developed as a "maritime and start-up hub".

8. Which of the following tribes belong to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands?

1. Onges
2. Jarawas
3. Sentinelese
4. Shompens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- PVTS in Andaman archipelago include the Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, and Shompens.

9. Which of the following are the criteria to declare a tribal group as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)?

1. A pre-agriculture level of Technology
2. A stagnant or declining Population
3. Extremely low literacy
4. A Subsistence Level of Economy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:
  - ✓ A pre-agriculture level of technology.
  - ✓ A stagnant or declining population.
  - ✓ Extremely low literacy.
  - ✓ A subsistence level of economy.

10. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **The Article 43 of the Constitution of India states** that the state shall endeavour

to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of pleasure and social and cultural opportunities.

- Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule where both the Central & State Governments are competent to enact Legislation.

1. Consider the following statements about Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System:

1. Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System is jointly developed by ECI and DRDO.
2. Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System is currently restricted to 'Service voters.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) is the one-way electronic transmission of the postal ballots to the Service Voters.
- It has been developed by ECI and C-DAC.
- Though recommendations have been made to extend it to overseas voters, currently it is restricted to only service voters.

2. Consider the following statements about Subhas Chandra Bose:

1. He founded the All India Forward Bloc in the year 1939.
2. He along with Jawaharlal Nehru criticized the Nehru Report over the issue of dominion status.
3. Subhas Chandra Bose was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1938.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All of the above statements are true.

3. River Patuxent flows in which of the following countries?

(a) Finland
(b) France
(c) United States of America
(d) Hungary

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Patuxent River flows in the state of Maryland, United States of America.
- Prelims Subject: Environment

4. With respect to the 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

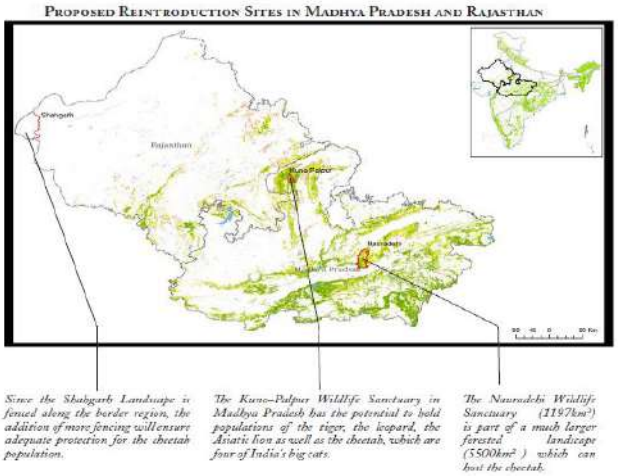
(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- 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 cheetah has been classified as **Vulnerable** by the **IUCN**; and listed under **Appendix I** of **CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). The **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuaries** in **Madhya Pradesh** and the **Shahgarh bulge landscape in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** are the three sites chosen for reintroduction of the species in India.



5. In India a dam is being constructed across a river that lies inside a national park. Who among the following are responsible for issuing environmental clearance for the same?

1. Ministry of Environment
2. National Green Tribunal
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
4. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Environmental clearance is granted by the **Ministry of Environment,** and the **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),** under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.
2. The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught.
3. The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Hoysaleshwara Temple, Halebeedu, Karnataka.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Chausath Yogini temple of **Morena, Madhya Pradesh. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. In the context to the Eastern and Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. While the Western Ghats passes through six states, the Eastern Ghats passes through only four states.
2. While Western Ghats was recognized as the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012, Eastern Ghats got the tag very recently in 2020.
3. Both the Western and Eastern Ghats meet at the Nilgiri Hills.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The **Western Ghats** is an extensive region spanning over six States. It is the home of many endangered plants and animals. The **Eastern Ghats** run from the northern Odisha through Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu in the south passing some parts of Karnataka. **So statement 1 is correct.**
- **Western Ghats** is a **UNESCO World Heritage site.** It is one of the eight **"hottest hot-spots"** of biological diversity in the world. Recently Environmental groups have also demanded to add the Eastern Ghats in the UNESCO World Heritage

Site. Currently it is **not under UNESCO World Heritage Site. So statement 2 is not correct.**

- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas but younger than the Eastern Ghats. They influence Indian monsoon weather patterns by intercepting the rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the south-west during late summer.
- They are eroded and cut through by four major rivers of peninsular India, viz. Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery.
- The Eastern Ghats meet up with the Western Ghats **at Nilgiri Hills. So statement 3 is correct.**

8. Consider the following with regard to Chillai Kalan

1. It is the intense winter period in North Pole
2. It is followed by Chillai-Khurd (small cold) and Chillai-Bachha(baby cold)
3. This winter period will continue till January 31.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The 40-day intense winter period "chillai kalan" started in Kashmir valley on 21st December.

Key Points

- During this period the temperature is sub-zero night across the region.
- This temperature will continue till January 31. It is followed by Chillai-Khurd (small cold) and Chillai-Bachha(baby cold).
- Chillai Khurd is a 20-day long period which starts from January 31 to February 19.
- Chillai-Bachha a 10-day long period which occurs between February 20 and March 2.
- Chillai Kalan usually brings snowfall, sub-zero temperatures causing freezing of water bodies including the Dal lake, closure of highways, etc.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Wi-Fi:

1. It is a networking technology that uses radio waves to allow high-speed data transfer over short distances.
2. It allows Local Area Networks (LANs) to operate without cables and wiring, making it a popular choice for home and business networks.
3. It can also be used to provide wireless broadband Internet access for many Modern Devices

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Wi-Fi:

- It is a networking technology that uses radio waves to allow high-speed data transfer over short distances.
- Wi-Fi allows Local Area Networks (LANs) to operate without cables and wiring, making it a popular choice for home and business networks.
- Wi-Fi can also be used to provide wireless broadband Internet access for many modern devices, such as laptops, smartphones, tablet computers, and electronic gaming consoles.
- Wi-Fi-enabled devices are able to connect to the Internet when they are near areas that have Wi-Fi access, called "hot spots".
- According to Cisco Annual Internet Report (2018-2023), there will be nearly 623 million public Wi-Fi hotspots across the world by 2023, up from 169 million hotspots as of 2018.
- Within this, the highest share of hotspots by 2023 will be in the Asia Pacific region at 46%. As per the calculations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), based on Cisco's estimates, India should have 100 million Wi-Fi hotspots by 2023.

10. In context to Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana, consider the following:

1. It is a scheme by the Ministry of Mines
2. Its fund accrued under District Mineral Foundation (DMF)
3. It ensures long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in Mining Areas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
- Nodal Ministry: PMKKKY is a scheme by the Ministry of Mines for the welfare of people & affected areas by using the funds accrued under District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

Objectives:

- To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.

- To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.
- To ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

Implementation:

- At least 60% the fund will be utilized for "High Priority Areas" like Drinking water supply, Environment preservation & pollution control measure, Health care, Education, etc. Rest of the fund will be utilized for "Other Priority Areas", such as Physical infrastructure, Irrigation, Energy & watershed development and Measures for enhancing environmental quality.

1. Which of the following countries border Nigeria?

1. Mauritania
2. Cameroon
3. Ghana
4. Chad

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: c)

Tag: International Relations

2. The Copenhagen consensus is related to which of the following?

(a) An agreement signed at the 2009 Copenhagen Conference of Parties (CoP 15)
(b) An agreement signed by all the European countries with regards to internet governance in Europe
(c) Deals with food fortification
(d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Copenhagen consensus deals with micronutrient fortification of basic food items with iodine and iron and is an incredibly cheap, simple intervention that saves lives.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Leopards are classified by IUCN as 'Critically Endangered'.
2. The Northeast landscape is home to the maximum number of leopards in India.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Leopards are classified as 'Vulnerable' by IUCN.
- Leopards are in maximum number in the Western Ghats region.

4. Consider the following statements

1. LOFAR (Low-Frequency Array) is currently the largest radio telescope operating at the lowest frequencies that can be observed from Earth.
2. LOFAR is a single-dish telescope located in the US.

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only.
(b) 2 only.
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) Neither 1 and 2.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- LOFAR (Low-Frequency Array) is currently the largest radio telescope

operating at the lowest frequencies that can be observed from Earth.

- Unlike single-dish telescope, LOFAR is a multipurpose sensor network, with an innovative computer and network infrastructure that can handle extremely large data volumes.
- After a decade, the International LOFAR Telescope has grown to encompass nine countries. Next to the Netherlands (38 stations), these are Germany (six stations), Poland (three stations), France, Ireland, Latvia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (one station each); a station in Italy is funded to be built soon.

5. The town of Chibok, seen in news is located in which of the following countries?

(a) Sudan
(b) Nigeria
(c) Ethiopia
(d) Chad

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Christian female students were kidnapped from the Secondary School in the town of Chibok in Borno State, Nigeria.
- Responsibility for the kidnappings was claimed by Boko Haram, an extremist terrorist organization based in northeastern Nigeria.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Green National Highways Corridor Project (NGHM):

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Power.
2. Its objective is to establish a corridor on national highways for the safe transmission of Electricity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Green Highways Mission (NGHM) has been launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) following the promulgation of 'Green Highways Policy' in September 2015.
- The objective of the Project is to demonstrate safe and green National Highway corridors in selected States and enhance the institutional capacity of the MoRTH in mainstreaming safety and green Technologies.
- It should not be confused with the Green Energy Corridor which is a comprehensive scheme for evacuation & integration of renewable energy (RE).

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

1. A volcano erupts only due to the movement of the tectonic plates either towards or away from each other.
2. The Kilauea volcano is located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
3. The Barren Island is the only active volcano in India.

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:

- A volcano is an opening on the surface that allows material warmer than its surroundings to escape from its interior.
- There are three reasons why magma might rise and cause eruptions onto Earth's surface:
- Magma can rise when pieces of Earth's crust called tectonic plates slowly move away from each other.
- Magma also rises when these tectonic plates move toward each other.
- A final way that magma rises is over hot spots.
- Hot spots are the hot areas inside of Earth. These areas heat up magma which then becomes less dense and rises.
- Kilauea Volcano, also called Mount Kilauea ("Much Spreading" in Hawaiian), is located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, U.S.A.
- It ranks among the world's most active volcanoes.
- Barren Island, Andaman Islands (India's only active volcano). Barren Island is an island located in the Andaman Sea. It is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia, and the only active volcano along a chain of volcanoes from Sumatra to Myanmar.

8. With reference to Parliamentary standing committee, consider the following statements:

1. The members of the standing committees are nominated only from the Lok Sabha .
2. A minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the standing committees.

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:

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, has recently submitted its report.
- The Constitution of India makes a mention of these committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc.
- Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.
- Standing Committees are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis.
- Each standing committee consists of 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha). The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Speaker, just as the members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the Chairman from amongst its members.
- Departmental Standing Committees: Out of the 24 standing committees, 8 work under the Rajya Sabha and 16 under the Lok Sabha.
- A minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the standing committees. In case a member, after his nomination to any of the standing committees, is appointed a minister, he then ceases to be a member of the committee.

9. In context to Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), consider the following statements:

1. It was established as a telecom research and development centre of the Department of Telecommunications.
2. The central registry for the PM-WANI scheme will be handled by the C-DoT.

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:

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
- C-DOT was established in 1984 as an autonomous Telecom Research & Development (R&D) centre of DoT, Government of India.
- It is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is a registered 'public funded research institution' with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- The Union Cabinet recently cleared a proposal by the Department of

Telecommunications (DoT) to set up public Wi-Fi access network interfaces called 'PM-WANI'. These would be provided through Public Data Offices (PDOs).

- A central registry will be set-up which will maintain details of all app providers, PDOAs and PDOs. The registry will be handled by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

10. In context to National Family Health Survey, consider the following:

1. It is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
2. It is been conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Which of the statement 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 Family Health Survey
- NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The Phase-I provides data for 22 states/UTs and the fieldwork in the remaining 14 (Phase-II) States/UTs is under progress.
- All NFHSs have been conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, serving as the nodal agency.

1. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Firefly bird diverters'

1. The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change along with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has come up with the 'Firefly bird diverters' initiative.
2. The firefly bird diverters' initiative is launched for the Great Indian Bustards (GIB) to prevent them from electrocution.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative called a "firefly bird diverter".
- The Wildlife Conservation Society is a non-governmental organization headquartered in New York, that aims to conserve the world's largest wild places in 14 priority regions.
- Firefly bird diverters are flaps installed on power lines. They work as reflectors for bird species like the Great Indian Bustard.
- The birds can spot them from a distance of about 50 meters and change their path of flight to avoid collision with power lines.
- The diverters are called fireflies because they look like fireflies from a distance, shining on power lines in the night.
- The GIB is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Protection Status:

- **IUCN status:** Critically Endangered.
- **CITES:** Appendix1
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule 1
- The Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican have been included in Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species.

2. Consider the following statements

1. The Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment.
2. The Central Information Commission has the powers of a civil court.
3. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Central Information Commission (CIC), the lead body for implementing the Right to Information Act 2005, has ruled that the disclosure of identity of electoral bond scheme donors will not serve any larger public interest and will violate provisions of the Act itself.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such a term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person regarding information request under RTI, 2005.
- The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power). While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc.,

3. In context to the Registrar General of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Registrar General is an autonomous body responsible for conducting census.
2. It arranges, conducts and analyses the results of both Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India.
3. 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 Registrar General of India is responsible for conducting census. It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs (not autonomous). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Government of India, in 1949 established an organisation in the Ministry of Home Affairs under Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India to develop systematic collection of statistics on the size of population, its growth, etc. The Registrar General arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Census of India:** It provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
- **Linguistic Survey of India:** The primary objective of the present Linguistic Survey of India is to present an updated linguistic scenario.

4. Consider the following statements, with reference to the 'Catch the Rain' Awareness Generation Campaign:

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
2. Repairing of the traditional Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) is one of the components of this campaign.

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 National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have launched the 'Catch the Rain' Awareness Generation Campaign. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

  Activities Involved:

  To nudge all stake-holders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to store rainwater.
- To engage people at the grassroots through effective campaigning and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for implementation of the campaign.
- Drives to make water harvesting pits, rooftop RWHS and check dams.
- Removal of encroachments and desilting of tanks to increase their storage capacity.
- Removal of obstructions in the channels which bring water from the catchment areas.
- Repairs to traditional WHS like step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and old wells to put the water back to aquifers.

5. Consider the following statements with reference to Permanent Court of Arbitration:

1. It was established in 1899.
2. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
3. It deals with dispute resolution in the International arena.

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) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration was established in 1899 and is headquartered in the Hague, Netherlands.
- It is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international

community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States.

- It has a three-part organizational structure consisting of: Administrative Council - to oversee its policies and budgets,
- Members of the Court - a panel of independent potential arbitrators, and
- International Bureau - its Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General.
- It has a Financial Assistance Fund, which aims at helping developing countries meet part of the costs involved in international arbitration or other means of dispute settlement offered by the PCA.

6. Which of the following countries are members of NATO:

I. Denmark
II. Turkey
III. Switzerland
IV. Greece

Identify the correct combination.

(a) II only.
(b) I, III, IV.
(c) I, II, IV.
(d) All of the above.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Switzerland is not a part of NATO, while the other three are the members of NATO.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 43-A was added to the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
2. A-43-A belongs to Gandhian Directive principles.

Choose the correct answer:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Article -43-A belongs to Socialistic DPSP and was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a constitutional body.
2. 5 communities are notified as religious minorities.
3. The tenure of the members of the National Commission for Minorities is 3 years.

Choose the correct answer:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- NCM is a statutory body created by the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- 6 communities, they are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis.

9. Which of the following countries border the Central African Republic?

1. Tanzania
2. Sudan
3. Democratic Republic of Congo
4. Senegal

Choose the correct answer:

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

Answer: b)

10. Which of the Following Water bordering Turkey are?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Aegean Sea
3. Black Sea
4. Caspian Sea

Select the correct Answer code:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Turkey is bordered on its northwest by Greece and Bulgaria; north by the black Sea; Northeast by Georgia; east by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran; southeast by Iraq; south by Syria and the Mediterranean Sea; and west by the Aegean Sea.

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1. The United Kingdom comprises of which of the following places?

1. England
2. Wales
3. Ireland
4. Scotland

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island nation in northwestern Europe.
- Northern Ireland comes under UK. Ireland is a separate country. So it is not a part of United Kingdom.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Brexit Withdrawal agreement':

1. Under this agreement, a transition period of 11 months has finalised until December 2020.
2. During this period, the U.K. will continue to participate in the EU's Customs Union and in the Single Market.
3. The U.K. will apply EU law even if it is no longer a Member State and will also continue to abide by the international agreements of the EU.

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:

- Under the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, a transition period of 11 months has finalised until December 2020. However, it might get delayed until 2022 or 2023.
- During this period, the U.K. will continue to participate in the EU's Customs Union and in the Single Market.
- The U.K. will apply EU law even if it is no longer a Member State and will also continue to abide by the international agreements of the EU.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

- The transition period makes sure that there is not a sudden shock but a degree of continuity and allows both parties to secure an orderly Brexit, minimising disruption for the citizens, businesses, public administrations, as well as for the international partners.

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Governor has the discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party/alliance, post-election; to form the government. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **S.R. Bommai verdict allows the Supreme Court to investigate claims of malafide in the Governor's report** however the SC said that while the subjective **satisfaction of the President regarding such a breakdown was beyond judicial scrutiny**. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The term of governor's office is normally 5 years but it can be terminated earlier by:
  - ✓ Dismissal by the president on the advice of the council of minister headed by the prime minister of the country.
  - ✓ Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted. However, it is the duty of the President to dismiss a governor whose acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.
  - ✓ Resignation by the governor
- So, statement 3 is not correct.

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

1. Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 generic medicines are those which contain same amount of active ingredient(s) in same dosage form and are intended to be administered by the same route of as that of branded medicine.
2. Drugs manufactured in India, irrespective of whether they are generic or branded, are

required to comply with the same standards as prescribed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made there under for their quality.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

5. Consider the following statements.

i. All India Trade Union Congress is the first Central Trade Union of India.

ii. All India Trade Union Congress was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

iii. The first session of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held in 1920 at Bombay

Choose the correct answer.

(a) I and II.

(b) II and III

(c) I and III

(d) All of the above.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The founding conference or the first session of AITUC began on October 31st 1920, in Empire Theatre Bombay with Lala Lajpat Rai as the founding President.
- All India Trade Union Congress is the first Central Trade Union of India and the second largest trade union federation in India after the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

6. Consider the following statements.

1. Kaundinya Elephant Sanctuary is located in West Bengal.
2. The sanctuary is covered under Project Elephant.

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) I only

(b) II only

(c) Both I and II

(d) Neither I and II

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Kaundinya Elephant Sanctuary is located in Palamner – Kuppam forest ranges of Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

7. Considering the degree of economic integration, arrange the following in the increasing order of integration:

i. Free Trade Agreement
ii. Economic Union.
iii. Preferential trading area.
iv. Customs Union.

Choose the correct answer:

(a) III-I-IV-II

(b) I-II-III-IV

(c) III-I-II-IV

(d) I-III-II-IV

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The degree of economic integration can be categorized into the following seven stages:
- 1-Preferential trading area
- 2-Free-trade area
- 3-Customs union
- 4-Single market
- 5-Economic union
- 6-Economic and monetary union
- 7-Complete economic integration

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Conjunction related to Solar System.

1. Conjunction is the name given to any event where planets or asteroids appear to be very close together in the sky when viewed from the Earth.
2. Conjunction always coincides with the winter solstice or the summer solstice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- After nearly 400 years, Saturn and Jupiter – the two largest planets in our solar system – were brought closest in the night sky by an astronomical event called the "great conjunction" and popularly referred to as the "Christmas Star".
- The event coincided with the winter solstice (shortest day of the year in terms of hours of sunlight received) in the Northern Hemisphere and summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.

- A conjunction is not unique to Saturn and Jupiter however, it is the name given to any event where planets or asteroids appear to be very close together in the sky when viewed from the Earth. In June 2005 for instance, as a result of the "spectacular" conjunction, Mercury, Venus and Saturn appeared so close together in the sky that the patch of sky where the three planets were could be covered by a thumb. Astronomers use the word "great" for the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn because of the planets' sizes.

9. Consider the following.

1. Maitri and Himadri are the two Indian permanent stations in Antarctica.
2. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is the nodal agency for India's scientific expeditions in Antarctica and the Arctic.

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:

- The two Indian permanent stations, Maitri and Bharati are in Antarctica.
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is the nodal agency for India's scientific expeditions in Antarctica and the Arctic.

10. In context to Municipal Bonds, consider the following statements

1. A municipal bond is a kind of debt instrument where investors offer loans to local governments.
2. They are issued by civic bodies for specific projects and usually have a tenure of 10 years.
3. In India, Municipal bonds were introduced for the first time under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A municipal bond is a kind of debt instrument where investors offer loans to local governments. They are issued by civic bodies for specific projects and usually have a 10-year tenure. The ULB pays the annual interest on the bonds to the investor at the decided rate.
- Bonds are issued to institutional and high net worth individuals. The face value of each instrument slot of a municipal bond if a minimum of Rs 10 lakh. It can be

subscribed to (purchased) by a single investor or multiple investors.

- According to officials, under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, urban local bodies (ULBs) are encouraged to tap the bond market.

1. Consider the following, with regard to Kamov-226T:

1. It is a design of Russia's famed Kamov design bureau.
2. It has two sets of rotors mounted one on top of the other and typically no tail rotor.
3. It is advantageous in high-altitude environments where an aircraft's performance at take-off tends to diminish due to the lower air density.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Design:** The Ka-226T is a design of Russia's famed Kamov design bureau.
- **Assembling:** A joint venture India Russia Helicopters Limited (IRHL) has been set up between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russian Helicopters (RH) which will assemble the helicopters in India.

Payload Capacity:

- It is a light helicopter, with a maximum take-off weight of over 3.5 tonnes and can carry a payload of up to 1 tonne.

Special Features:

- The Ka-226T uses coaxial rotors, that is, it has two sets of rotors mounted one on top of the other and typically no tail rotor.
- Coaxial rotors give a helicopter improvement in lift and payload capacity over conventional choppers.
- This is especially advantageous in high-altitude environments where an aircraft's performance at take-off tends to diminish due to the lower air density.
- The Ka-226T also has a unique, detachable 'mission' compartment instead of a conventional cabin.
- This allows the helicopter to be adapted for different roles such as surveillance and cargo delivery.

Issues with the Old Fleet of Helicopters:

- About 75% of the Army's fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters is over 30 years old. Some of them are about 50 years old and they need urgent replacements.
- Operational capability has been impacted due to deficiencies and non-availability of replacement.
- Requirement of Helicopters in Indian Army: There is a requirement of around 400 such helicopters in the army.

2. With reference to Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary, consider the following:

1. It owes its name to the narrow stretch of River Mahanadi
2. It is a unique feature in geomorphology of India because here Mahanadi cuts right across the Eastern Ghats and has formed a magnificent gorge.
3. It is known for Gharials, Mugger crocodile and rare freshwater turtles like Chitra indica and Indian Softshell Turtle.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary:

- It owes its name to the narrow stretch of River Mahanadi i.e. “Sat-Kosh" or seven miles long near Tikarpada, 60 km south of Angul.
- The area was made a sanctuary in 1976 and spreads out in four districts of Odisha namely Angul, Budh, Cuttack and Nayagarh. The Satkosia Gorge is a unique feature in geomorphology of India because here Mahanadi cuts right across the Eastern Ghats and has formed a magnificent gorge.
- **Fauna:** It is known for Gharials, Mugger crocodile and rare freshwater turtles like Chitra indica and Indian softshell turtle.

3. Consider the following, with regard to BBX11 Gene:

1. It plays a vital role in regulation of the amount of protochlorophyllide synthesized by the plant
2. It is very important to regulate the amount of protochlorophyllide synthesized by the plant.

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 researchers discovered a mechanism where two proteins oppositely regulate the BBX11 gene to maintain optimum ranges of BBX11.
- BBX11 plays a vital role in regulation of the amount of protochlorophyllide synthesized by the plant.
- Protochlorophyllide is an intermediate in the synthesis of chlorophyll.
- If it is less, plants are unable to efficiently green in order to harvest sunlight and if the amount of protochlorophyllide is more, then photobleaching occurs.

- Photobleaching is loss of colour by a pigment.
- The quantity of protochlorophyllide synthesised needs to be proportional to the variety of enzymes available to transform them to chlorophyll.
- It is very important to regulate the amount of protochlorophyllide synthesized by the plant.

Synthesis of Chlorophyll:

- Chlorophyll is the green pigment in plants, algae, and cyanobacteria that absorbs sunlight and uses its energy to synthesise carbohydrates from Carbon-di-Oxide (CO2) and water.
- The synthesis of chlorophyll in plants is a lengthy, multi-step process.
- When a seedling emerges from under the soil it must quickly synthesise chlorophyll to start supporting its own growth.
- In order to facilitate quick synthesis of chlorophyll, plants make a precursor of chlorophyll called 'protochlorophyllide' in the dark, which glows red in blue light.
- As soon as the plant comes out into the light from under the soil, light-dependent enzymes convert protochlorophyllide to chlorophyll.

4. With reference to the Inner Line Permit, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
2. At present five North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
3. ILP is only for the citizens of India and foreigners are not included in the laws of Inner line Permit.

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:

- It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- At present, four North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland**. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The demand by Tribal organisations of Meghalaya for ILP system to restrict the entry of outsiders into the State has turned into violent protests

- Both the duration of stay and the areas allowed to be accessed for any non-native are determined by the ILP.
- The ILP is issued by the concerned state government and can be availed both by applying online and in person.
- An ILP is only valid for domestic tourists. For foreign tourists in:

✓ **Manipur:** No permit is required. But, have to register themselves.

✓ **Mizoram:** No permit is required. But, need to register.

✓ **Nagaland:** No permit is required. However, they need to register.

✓ **Arunachal Pradesh:** Tourists need a Protected Area Permit (PAP) or Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

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

5. With Respect to Protected Agriculture Zone, consider the following statements:

1. Declaring as the Protected Special Agriculture Zone ensures that particular region will not be granted permission for any new projects like those related to hydrocarbons.
2. Only Agro based Industries would be given permission to be built.
3. Tamil Nadu is the First state to declare a region as the Protected Agriculture Zone.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are correct.

6. 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.

7. In the context to the Parliamentary Committees, which of the statement(s) given below is/are ***not*** correct?

1. Finance Committees existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an Annual Basis.
2. Select committees formed for a specific purpose, such as to deliberate on a particular bill and cease to exist once the bill is Disposed.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **'Standing' committees:** Their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis. Some standing committees are departmentally related. **So, statement 1 is not correct**.
- **'Select' committees** formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Finance committees** are considered to be particularly powerful. The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

8. Consider the following statements

1. President Rule under Article 356 was first imposed in the state of Kerala in 1959.
2. The concept of President Rule was borrowed from Indian Councils Act of 1892.

Choose the correct answer.

(a) 1 only.
(b) 2only.
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) Neither 1 and 2.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The president rule was borrowed from the Government of India 1935 Act
- It was first imposed in 1951 in Punjab by the Jawaharlal Nehru led Government.

9. India signed a deal for jointly producing Ka-226T helicopter with which of the following countries.

(a) United States of America
(b) Israel
(c) Russia
(d) France

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- India and Russia had signed an intergovernmental agreement in 2015 to sell New Delhi 200 Ka-226T helicopters, but a firm contract is yet to be inked.
- Kamov is a small, twin engine Russian utility helicopter. It is manufactured by Russian Helicopters.

10. Consider the following statements

1. National Textile Corporation Limited, (NTC) is a schedule "A" public sector company under the ambit of Ministry of Textile, Government of India
2. National Textile Corporation was established in 1968 to look after the functioning of 119 sick textile mills acquired through three Nationalisation Acts

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 and 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are correct

1. Consider the following statements

1. Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to hear and dispose of appeals against orders passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
2. SAT hears and disposes of appeals against orders passed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only.
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) Neither 1 and 2.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are true.

2. Consider the following statements

1. Recessions generally occur when there is a widespread increase in spending causing High Inflation.
2. Disinflation is a temporary slowing of the pace of price inflation.

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only.
(c) Both 1 and 2.
(d) Neither 1 and 2.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A recession is a business cycle contraction when there is a general decline in economic activity.
- Recessions generally occur when there is a widespread drop in spending.
- Disinflation, on the other hand, shows the rate of change of inflation over time. The inflation rate is declining over time, but it remains positive.

3. Coringa wildlife sanctuary is situated in

(a) Maharashtra
(b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Kerala
(d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Andhra Pradesh, is home to numerous species of flora and fauna.
- Situated in a region with an estuary (where the river meets the sea), Coringa is a major tourist hub.
- The wildlife sanctuary is home to some of the endangered species of animals, birds, and plants and hence is an important bio-diversity zone in terms of the preservation of wildlife.

4. Variations in the length of daytime and night-time from season to season are due to

(a) the earth's rotation on its axis

(b) the earth's revolution round the sun in an elliptical manner

(c) latitudinal position of the place

(d) Revolution of the earth on a tilted axis.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Rotation of earth on its axis causes day and night but the revolution of earth in an elliptical manner around the sun causes seasons, equinoxes and solstices.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Committee:

1. The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee.
2. Monetary Policy Committee is a six-member committee headed by the Finance Minister.
3. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- MPC is a six-member committee constituted by the Central Government (Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934) - three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.
- The resolution adopted by the MPC is published after the conclusion of every meeting of the MPC.
- Once in every six months, the Reserve Bank is required to publish a document called the Monetary Policy Report to explain: (1) the sources of inflation and(2) the forecast of inflation for 6-18 months ahead.

6. With respect to the Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. It was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

2. It also includes the on-going centrally sponsored schemes – Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY).
3. It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, for primary, secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also includes the on-going centrally sponsored schemes – Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, **for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** across public and private empanelled hospitals in India. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. 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.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme:

1. It will cover only the districts under the aspirational district programme.
2. It provides free of cost insurance cover.
3. It would work in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently the Prime Minister has launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)- Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- AB-PMJAY SEHAT Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover. It provides financial cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.
- The scheme would work in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

9. 'Nanomicelle', sometime seen in the news is related to

(a) Effective drug delivery method to treat cancer.
(b) Method to turn saline water into fresh water.
(c) Method to increase soil fertility.
(d) An organism that recently became extinct.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A team of scientists has created a nanomicelle that can be used for effective drug delivery to treat various cancers including breast, colon and lung cancer.
- Nanotechnology or nanotech is the technology that involves the manipulation of matter on atomic, molecular, and supramolecular scales. This includes particles of a scale of 1 to 100 nanometers.
- Nanomicelle are amphiphilic, i.e. have a hydrophilic outer shell and a hydrophobic interior. This dual property makes them a perfect carrier for delivering drug molecules.
- The hydrophilic shell makes the micelle water soluble that allows for intravenous delivery while the hydrophobic core carries a payload of drug for therapy.

10. The 'Main Bhi Digital Drive', sometimes seen in the news is related to

(a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

(b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

(c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

(d) Ministry of Education

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is going to launch 'Main Bhi Digital (me too digital)' drive for the street vendors to enable them to accept and make payments digitally.
- The drive has been encouraged by the success of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi) scheme, launched in the wake of the Covid-19 lockdown, to provide vendors microcredit.
- As part of the new drive, between 4th January to 22nd January 2021, over 10 lakh street vendors across the country who have availed of the Rs. 10,000 loan will be trained in using digital payments.

1. 'Rohingyas' are a group of people sometimes seen in news belong to which of the following country?

(a) Bhutan
(b) Nepal
(c) Myanmar
(d) Bangladesh

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Rohingyas are an Ethnic group, mostly Muslims. They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar.
- They were classified as "resident foreigners or associate citizens".
- Ethnically they are much closer to Indo-Aryan people of India and Bangladesh than to the Sino-Tibetans of the Country.
- Few years ago, religious and ethnic tensions between the Rohingya Muslims and the Rakhine Buddhists (who make up the majority of the population in Myanmar) escalated into widespread, deadly rioting.
- Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee. Since then, ongoing violent attacks have forced even more people to leave their homes.
- The Myanmar Government says that Rohingya people are not Burmese citizens – but the Rohingya have been living in Myanmar for generations. Today, they are a people with no home or citizenship.
- Rohingya people are being widely abused and exploited. They are one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

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

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

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). **So, statement 1 is not correct**.
- Eight Beaches from India were recently accorded Blue Flag Tag which includes Kasarkod and Padubidri beach. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

3. KV Kamath Committee, sometimes seen in news is related to

(a) Restructure the MSME criteria

(b) COVID-19 related debt restructuring

(c) FRBM Rules

(d) Scrutinizing the applications for new bank licenses

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court recently asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to place on record the KV Kamath committee's recommendations on COVID-19 related debt restructuring.

4. The State of India's Environment, 2020 report was released by

(a) National Green Tribunal

(b) Centre for Science and Environment

(c) National Biodiversity authority

(d) Greenpeace India

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The State of India's Environment, 2020 report was released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a research and advocacy organisation. CSE also publishes the environment magazine Down to Earth.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Blue Flag Certification:

1. Blue Flag is a certification awarded to beaches, marinas and sustainable boat tourism operators that meet the requirements.
2. It is awarded by the Global Environment Facility.
3. India does not have any blue flag certifications to its credit.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.
- Blue Flag is a certification awarded to beaches, marinas and sustainable boat tourism operators that meet the requirements.
- The Blue Flag certification is awarded by a non-profit organization called the Foundation for Environmental Education

(FEE). India is now in the league of 50 "BLUE FLAG" countries.

- The following beaches have been awarded the "Blue Flag":
  - ✓ Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat)
  - ✓ Ghoghla (Diu)
  - ✓ Kasarkod (Karnataka)
  - ✓ Padubidri (Karnataka)
  - ✓ Kappad (Kerala)
  - ✓ Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh)
  - ✓ Golden (Puri-Odisha)
  - ✓ Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Hubble Space Telescope:

1. It was built by the United States space agency NASA, with contributions from the European Space Agency.
2. Hubble is the only telescope designed to be serviced in space by astronauts.
3. It is the first space telescope.

Which of the given statement/s is/are ***Incorrect?***

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Hubble Telescope is the only telescope designed to be serviced in space by astronauts.
- It was built by the United States space agency NASA, with contributions from the European Space Agency.
- It was not the first space telescope, but it is one of the largest and most versatile, well known both as a vital research tool and as a public relations boon for astronomy. The Hubble telescope is named after astronomer Edwin Hubble and is one of NASA's Great Observatories.

7. "Bhashan Char Island", recently in news, is a part of which country?

(e) India
(f) Bangladesh
(g) Myanmar
(h) Malaysia

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Bhashan Char is an island in Hatiya Upazila, Bangladesh.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

1. It is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.
2. It was renamed as the CBIC in 2018 after the roll out of the GST.
3. It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of customs and central excise duties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- It is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.
- The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) was renamed as the CBIC in 2018 after the roll out of the GST.
- It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of customs, central excise duties, Central GST (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST).

9. With reference to Bond, consider the following:

1. It is a fixed income instrument that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower.
2. It acts as a contract between the investor and the borrower.

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:

Bonds:

- A bond is a fixed income instrument that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower. In simpler words, a bond acts as a contract between the investor and the borrower.
- Mostly Companies and Government issue bonds and Investors buy those bonds as a savings and security option.
- These bonds have a maturity date and when once that is attained, the issuing company needs to pay back the amount to the investor along with a part of the profit.

10. In context to Pneumococcal disease, consider the following:

1. It is an infection of the lungs.
2. It is a name for any infection caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pneumoniae
3. It is the most common cause of bloodstream infections, pneumonia, meningitis, and middle ear infections in Young Children.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Pneumococcal disease is a name for any infection caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pneumoniae or pneumococcus.
- The bacteria is the most common cause of bloodstream infections, pneumonia, meningitis, and middle ear infections in young children.
- Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs. Many different bacteria, viruses, and even fungi can cause pneumonia. Pneumococcus is one of the most common causes of severe pneumonia. Doctors consider some of these infections "invasive".
- Invasive disease means that germs invade parts of the body that are normally free from germs.
- For example, pneumococcal bacteria can invade the bloodstream, causing bacteraemia, and the tissues and fluids covering the brain and spinal cord, causing meningitis. When this happens, disease is usually very severe, requiring treatment in a hospital and even causing death in some cases.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

2. The Earth's gravity is stronger at the poles than the equator. This is due to which of the following reasons?

1. The centrifugal force cancels out the gravitational force minimally, more so at the equator than at the poles.
2. The poles are closer to the centre due to the equatorial bulge, and thus have a stronger Gravitational Field.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both are the reasons for the Earth's gravity being stronger at the poles than the equator.
- Due to the equatorial bulge, i.e. the equator being more bulged towards the outside, the poles are nearer to the centre of the earth, as compared to the equatorial region.
- And as the acceleration due to gravity is inversely proportional to the distance from the centre of the earth, the lesser distance towards the poles causes the acceleration due to gravity to be more in poles than in equator.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Anticipatory Bail:

1. Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued after the person is arrested.
2. Anticipatory bail is not granted for the persons who are arrested under the SCs and STs (prevention of Atrocities) Act.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued even before the person is arrested. **So, statement 1 is incorrect**.
- It is only issued by the Sessions court and High Court.

- The 2018 amendment act was proposed to nullify the safeguards proposed by the Supreme Court. The amendments proposed were:

1. Investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused.
2. Preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
3. **Persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail** (Section 18A).

- To avoid any ambiguity the act proposes that these provisions apply despite any judgments or orders of a court that provide otherwise. These amendments to the prevention of atrocities act were questioned in the Supreme Court as **ultra vires** (beyond the powers).
- However, in February 2020 judgement in **Prathvi Raj Chouhan Case**, the SC has **upheld Section 18A** and said that the High Courts will have an **"inherent power"** to **grant anticipatory bail** in cases in which prima facie an offence under the 1989 law is not made out. **So statement 2 is incorrect**.

4. Global Environment Outlook is released by

(a) UNESCO

(b) UNEP

(c) World Bank

(d) NITI Aayog

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The GEO project was initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of UN Agenda 21 and to a UNEP Governing Council decision of May 1995 which requested the production of a new comprehensive global state of the environment report.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Central Information Commission (CIC):

1. Central Information Commission is an executive body.
2. Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Central Information Commission is a statutory body under the Right to Information Act of 2005.

6. Which of the following countries share a land border with Bangladesh?

1. India
2. Myanmar
3. China

Choose the correct answer:

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

Answer: b)

7. Which among the following is/are the overlapping powers of Executive with Judiciary?

1. Making appointments to the office of Chief Justice and other judges.
2. Powers to grant pardons, reprieve, respite or remission of punishments or sentence of any person convicted of any offence.

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)

Overlapping Powers of the Executive:

With Judiciary	With Legislative
• Making appointments to the office of Chief Justice and other judges. • Powers to grant pardons, reprieve, respite or remission of punishments or sentence of any person convicted of any offence. • The tribunals and other quasi-judicial bodies which are a part of the executive also discharge judicial functions.	• Power to promulgate ordinance which has the same force of the Act made by the Parliament or the State legislature. • Authority to make rules for regulating their respective procedure and conduct of business subject to the provisions of this Constitution. • Powers under delegated legislation.

8. With reference to Bureau of Police Research and Development, consider the following:

1. It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1970.
2. It replaced the Police Research and Advisory Council (1966)
3. It has been publishing the data on police organisations since 1986.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Bureau of Police Research and Development
- The Government of India established it under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1970.
- It replaced the Police Research and Advisory Council (1966), with the primary

objective of modernization of the police force.

- In 1995, the Government decided to entrust issues relating to Correctional Administration Work to the BPR&D.
- Thereby BPRD has to ensure the implementation of prison reforms as well.
- The Government of India decided to create a National Police Mission under the administrative control of BPR&D to transform the police forces in the country.
- In August 2020, it observed its 50th foundation day.
- It has been publishing the data on police organisations since 1986.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd

1. It is under the Ministry of Railways
2. It is a special purpose vehicle tasked with planning and completion of 3,306 kms of DFCs
3. It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.
- DFCCIL under the Ministry of Railways is a special purpose vehicle tasked with planning and completion of 3,306 kms of DFCs.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi and is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
- It engages in the planning and development, deployment of monetary resources, building, upkeep, and the operation of the DFCs.

10. In context to Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, consider the following:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
2. It is located in Hyderabad & was established in 1999.
3. It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), New Delhi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

- It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It is located in Hyderabad & was established in 1999.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO), New Delhi.
- The ESSO operates as an executive arm of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for its policies and programmes.
- ESSO's aim is to develop and improve capability to forecast weather, climate and hazard related phenomena for social, economic and environmental benefits including addressing aspects relating to climate change science, and climate services. It is mandated to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focused research. It has adopted and developed various state-of-the-art technologies and tools that includes Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, Ocean State Forecast (OSF), High Wave Alerts, Tsunami early warnings, Storm Surge and Oil-Spill advisories, etc.
- It has been serving as the National Argo Data Centre and Regional Argo Data Centre of the International Argo Programme.