

November 2020, Current Affairs MCQ Compilation

1. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gilgit-Baltistan:

1. It was formerly known as the Northern Areas and has been under the control of Pakistan since April 1949.
2. Article 370 of the Pakistan Constitution grants special autonomous status to Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer:A

Explanation:

India is protesting against a recent order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan that brought the region of Gilgit-Baltistan within its ambit by arguing that the region would remain an integral part of India. India called the recent order as an interference in India's internal affairs. Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) was formerly known as the Northern Areas. It is an integral part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir but is currently under Pakistani occupation. Gilgit Baltistan has been under the control of Pakistan since April 1949, when the leadership of the so-called Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) was forced to sign away this territory to Pakistan.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

However, the region does not have any place in the constitutional framework of Pakistan and has been kept under the tight control of the central government. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution grants special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir. Hence statement 2 is wrong.

2. Consider the following pairs.

<i>Tribes</i>	-	<i>States</i>
1. Oraons	-	Chattisgarh
2. Maldhari	-	Gujarat
3. Mishmis	-	Assam

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3

Correct Answer:A

Explanation:

The Miju Mishmi, also known as Kaman or Kammaan, are one of the three tribes of the Mishmi people of Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh. Members of this tribe are located in Anjaw and Lohit districts. The Miju clans claim to have come from the Kachin country of Burma. They speak languages of the Midzu branch of Tibeto-Burman.

3. Which one of the following statements is *not* correct about Asiatic lions?

- A. It is listed in Appendix II of CITES.
- B. Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- C. At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.
- D. Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides.

Correct Answer:A

Explanation:

According to June 5, 2020 census, the number of Asiatic lions have now risen by 29% over five years to an estimated 674 in the Gir forest region and other revenue areas of coastal Saurashtra. During 2015, their population was 523 lions. Geographically, distribution area is up by 36%. Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of CITES and as Endangered on IUCN Red List. Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions. The most striking morphological character is a longitudinal fold of skin running along belly of Asiatic Lions. At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is the only abode of the Asiatic lion. They live in a compact tract of dry deciduous forest and open grassy scrublands in southwestern part of Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides. Prides are family units that may include up to three males, a dozen or so females, and their young. All of a pride's lionesses are related and female cubs typically stay with the group as they age. Young males eventually leave and may establish their own prides by taking over a group headed by another male.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Which of the following National Park is the only existent habitat for the nearly extinct Asiatic Lions in India?

- A. Gir National Park
- B. Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park
- C. Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. National Chambal Sanctuary

Correct Answer:A

Explanation:

Gir National Park in Gujarat is the only existent habitat for the nearly extinct Asiatic Lions in India.

Hence, A is the correct option.

5. What is gig economy?

- A. Agricultural economy
- B. Public sector economy

- C. Services sector economy
- D. A labour market characterized by the prevalence of short term contract and freelance work.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

In gig economy, prevalence of short term contract and freelance work can be observed as opposed to permanent jobs.

6. With reference to ‘Mission Sagar-II’, consider the following statements:

1. Mission Sagar-II, follows the first ‘Mission Sagar’ undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India reached out to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, and provided food aid and medicines.
2. As part of Mission Sagar-II, Indian Naval Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer:C

Explanation:

As part of ‘Mission Sagar-II’, Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan on 02 November 2020. The Government of India is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan.

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Hence both statements are correct.

7. With reference to the Mid-day meal scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest school feeding programme in the world.
2. The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer:C

Explanation:

Government has announced around 11 % increase in annual central allocation of cooking cost under Mid-day meal scheme to 8,100 crore rupees in view of situation arising out of COVID-19. With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995. In 2001 MDMS became a cooked Mid Day Meal Scheme. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of classes I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarasas/ maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It is the largest school feeding programme in the world. The Midday Meal Scheme is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Hence both statements are correct.

8. Which among the following factors contribute to demand-pull inflation?

1. The rise in Government Expenditure
2. Increase in Money Supply
3. Increase in foreign investment
4. Increase in Indirect Taxes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Demand-pull inflation happens when price levels rise because of an imbalance in the aggregate supply and demand. When the aggregate demand in an economy strongly outweighs the aggregate supply, prices go up. Economists describe demand-pull inflation as a result of too much money chasing too few goods.

Causes of Demand-Pull Inflation:

Government spending: When the government opens up its pocketbooks, it drives up prices. Military spending prices may go up when the government starts to buy more military equipment.

More money in the system: demand-pull inflation is produced by an excess in monetary growth or an expansion of the money supply. Too much money in an economic system with too few goods makes prices increase.

Increase in Foreign Investment: With the increase in foreign investment, there is a rise in employment. More employment results in a rise in purchasing power leading to more consumption expenditure thus raising demand.

Rise in incomes: Rise in household incomes raises demand which outpaces the supply of goods causing inflation.

Cost-push inflation is a situation in which the overall price levels go up (inflation) due to an increase in the cost of wages and raw materials. Cost-push inflation develops because the higher costs of production

factors result in a decrease in aggregate supply (the amount of total production) in the economy. Since there are fewer goods being produced (supply weakens) and demand for these goods remains consistent, the prices of finished goods increase (inflation).

Cost-push factors include:

- Rise in wages
- The rise in indirect taxes.
- Infrastructure bottlenecks like slow transportation which raise costs.
- The rise in import prices.

9. With reference to Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020.
2. India continues to be in the “serious” hunger category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 and continues to be in the “serious” hunger category, though it has made some progress, particularly since the enactment of National Food Security Act.

Last year, India’s rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

The neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the “serious” category but ranked higher than India in this year’s index as has been the trend for several years.

While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively.

Nepal and Sri Lanka were in 73rd and 64th position and were in the “moderate” hunger category.

India’s score has decreased consistently, a positive sign in this ranking, from 32.2 in 2010 to 31.1 in 2018 and last year the score was 30.3.

In the 2020 report, India’s score stood at 27.2. Going by this pace of progress, it is likely to take some more years for India to be in the “moderate” category. Countries that have scores between 10 and 19.9 are categorised as moderate ones.

The report said 14% of India’s population was undernourished and the country recorded a 37.4% stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3%. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7%.

The GHI is calculated by using a three-step process and the indicators used are percentage of undernourished population, percentage of children under five years suffering from wasting and stunting, and child mortality.

Hence both statements are correct.

10. With reference to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report, consider the following statements:

1. It was released on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development which tracks the progress of nations towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
2. Africa remains home to the greatest number of undernourished.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 report was released on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development which tracks the progress of nations towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

It is produced jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Its first edition was brought out in 2017.

Key highlights of the report:

The world is not on track to meet the goal of zero hunger by 2030 i.e. SDG2.

Between 8.3 crore and 13 crore people globally are likely to go hungry this year due to the economic recession triggered by COVID-19.

Hunger continues to be on the rise since 2014 and the global prevalence of undernourishment, or overall percentage of hungry people, is 8.9%. Almost 69 crore people went hungry in 2019 — up by 1 crore in 2018

Asia remains home to the greatest number of undernourished (38 crore). Africa is second (25 crore), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (4.8 crore).

In 2019, 21.3% (14.4.crore) of children under 5 years were stunted, 6.9% (4.7 crore) wasted and 5.6% (3.8 million) overweight.

A healthy diet costs more than ₹143 (or \$1.90/ day), which is the international poverty threshold. The number of people globally who can't afford a healthy diet is at 300 crore people, or more than the combined population of China and India.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

11. With reference to the Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System, consider the following statements:

1. The Pilot Scheme has been approved for a period of three years beginning 2019-2020 with a total budget outlay of Rs.174.6 Crore.
2. It is a central sector scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

To initiate the process of taking the country towards nutritional security, Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) has been running a “Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System”.

The Pilot Scheme has been approved for a period of three years beginning 2019-2020 with a total budget outlay of Rs.174.6 Crore.

Fifteen State Governments have identified their respective districts (1 district per state) for implementing the Pilot Scheme.

Already 5 states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have started the distribution of fortified rice in their respective identified districts.

In this connection, the Union Minister for Food & Consumer Affairs in his review meeting held on 31.10.2020, laid the emphasis on scaling up of the distribution of fortified rice in the country.

The FCI has been asked to come up with a comprehensive plan for procurement and distribution of fortified rice in all the Districts of the country under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) & Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme from 2021-2022.

Special focus would be placed on supplying fortified rice to the 112 specially identified Aspirational Districts of the country.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

12. With reference to Gilgit-Baltistan, consider the following statements:

1. It is the northernmost territory administered by Afghanistan, providing the country’s only territorial frontier, and thus a land route, with China, where it meets the Xinjiang Autonomous Region.
2. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

On November 1, observed every year in Gilgit-Baltistan as “Independence Day”, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that his government would give the region “provisional provincial status”.

When that happens, G-B will become the fifth province of Pakistan, although the region is claimed by India as part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir as it existed in 1947 at its accession to India.

Gilgit-Baltistan is the northernmost territory administered by Pakistan, providing the country's only territorial frontier, and thus a land route, with China, where it meets the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has made the region vital for both countries.

To G-B's west is Afghanistan, to its south is Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and to the east J&K.

The plan to grant G-B provincial status gathered speed over the last one year due to CPEC and Chinese interest, as well as India's reassertion of its claims after the August 5, 2019 reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir.

Though Pakistan, like India, links G-B's fate to that of Kashmir, its administrative arrangements are different from those in PoK.

While PoK has its own Constitution that sets out its powers and their limits vis-à-vis Pakistan, G-B has been ruled mostly by executive fiat. Until 2009, the region was simply called Northern Areas.

It got its present name only with the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self-Governance) Order, 2009, which replaced the Northern Areas Legislative Council with the Legislative Assembly.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

13. Consider the following statements about Special Marriage Act, 1954

1. It extends to intending spouses who are both Indian nationals living abroad
2. It does not provide for divorce

Select the correct statements:

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to provide a special form of marriage for the people of India and all Indian nationals in foreign countries, irrespective of the religion or faith followed by either party. It has 3 major objectives: To provide a special form of marriage in certain cases,• To provide for registration of certain marriages and,• To provide for divorce.

14. Shashi S. Vempati committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

- A. Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India
- B. Review on Small Scale Industries
- C. Decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a committee to review “Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India” notified by the Ministry in 2014.

The committee will be chaired by Shashi S. Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharti.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee shall be as under:

Study past recommendations made by various forums on the subject of television rating systems in India and matter incidental thereto;

Study recent recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority on the subject;

Suggest steps for enhancing competition in the sector;

Review of the presently notified guidelines to see if the intended purpose(s) of issuing the guidelines have stood the test of time and has met needs of various stakeholders involve The lacunae, if any, shall be specially addressed by the Committee;

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

15. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Supreme Court if an estranged wife gave up her job to take care of children and the elderly in the family, then this will have to be taken into consideration by the family court while quantifying monthly interim maintenance payable to her by the husband.
2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act specified the date from which interim maintenance was to be granted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Supreme Court ruled that Computation of maintenance to estranged wife will include child care.

The Supreme Court said if an estranged wife gave up her job to take care of children and the elderly in the family, then this will have to be taken into consideration by the family court while quantifying monthly interim maintenance payable to her by the husband.

The court also found that pleas for grant of interim maintenance were pending in courts for years even though the law stipulated a 60-day window, from the date of issuance of notice by the court to a husband on the estranged wife's application, for grant of maintenance.

This is the first time that the highest court has considered the sacrifices made by career women in taking care of children.

The SC ruled that this would be an added component for enhancing the grant of interim compensation to her, so that she could lead a life almost akin to what she was used to when all was well in the matrimonial home.

Normally, the courts take into account the husband's income and assets while quantifying interim maintenance to an estranged wife.

As of now, Neither the Hindu Marriage Act nor the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act specified the date from which interim maintenance was to be granted, leading to exercise of discretion by family courts.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

16. With reference to 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, consider the following statements:

1. US is the first country to withdraw from the Agreement.
2. With contributing 14% of total carbon emission, the US is currently the second biggest emitter after China (26%).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The United States formally exited from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change which is a global deal to take collective actions for saving the world from disastrous consequences of global warming. Though the US under President Donald Trump had announced his decision to withdraw from the Agreement in 2017, the formal withdrawal could technically happen only a day after the US presidential election as per the UN climate body's exit procedures for the deal.

It made the US the first country to withdraw from the Agreement.

With contributing 14% of total carbon emission, the US is currently the second biggest emitter after China (26%). The EU nations collectively contribute to 9% of total emission followed by India at 7%.

Recently, countries such as China, Japan and South Korea had announced their intentions to raise climate action ambition to reach respective 'net zero targets', aligning themselves with the EU's similar plan.

Hence both statements are correct.

17. With reference to Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is being constructed on the Ravi river.
2. It is being implemented on a Build-Own-Operate-Maintain basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the investment for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project.

It is located on River Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with active support from Government of India and the State Government.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

18. With reference to the 15th Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The Commission has reduced the vertical devolution — the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states — from 42% to 32%.
2. The Commission intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defence expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The report of the 15th Finance Commission, along with an Action Taken Report, was tabled in Parliament.

The Commission has reduced the vertical devolution — the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states — from 42% to 41%.

The Commission intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defence expenditure. It may do so by creating a separate fund from the gross tax revenue before computing the divisible pool — which means that states would get a smaller share of the taxes.

It has considered the 2011 population along with forest cover, income distance, tax effort, area of the state, and “demographic performance” to arrive at the states’ share in the divisible pool of taxes.

The use of 2011 population figures has resulted in states with larger populations like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar getting larger shares, while smaller states with lower fertility rates have lost out. Shares of the southern states, except Tamil Nadu, have fallen — with Karnataka losing the most.

In order to reward population control efforts by states, the Commission developed a criterion for demographic effort — which is essentially the ratio of the state’s population in 1971 to its fertility rate in 2011 — with a weight of 12.5%. But its impact is not entirely clear.

The Income distance criterion: Income distance is calculated as the difference between the per capita gross state domestic product (GSDP) of the state from that of the state with the highest per capita GSDP, with states with less income getting a higher share in order to allow them to provide services comparable to those provided by the richer ones.

View of centre on recommendations:

The Centre has rejected the 15th Finance Commission’s recommendation to give special grants worth ₹6,764 crore to States in 2020-21 to ensure that they do not receive less than the previous year’s allocation.

Major recommendations accepted by the Centre include the 41% share for States out of the divisible pool of tax collections, the suggested grants-in-aid and post-devolution revenue deficit grants of ₹74,340 crore for 14 States. It also accepted recommendations for grants to local bodies, disaster-related grants and sectoral grants.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

19. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs for enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Part III of Indian Constitution under Article 32.
2. Prohibition writ is issued to produce a person who has been detained, whether in prison or in private custody, before a court and to release him if such detention is found illegal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bombay High Court today heard Habeas Corpus plea of senior journalist Arnab Goswami, who was arrested in a connection with abetment to suicide case by Police. Journalist's advocate submitted before the court that the arrest is illegal and argued that opening a case by Police through Suo Moto action is an insult to the magistrate and judiciary.

Right to Constitutional Remedies: The Indian Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs for enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Part III of Indian Constitution under Article 32. Thus the power to issue writs is primarily a provision made to make available the Right to Constitutional Remedies to every citizen.

There are five types of Writs: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari and Quo warranto.

Habeas Corpus: "Habeas Corpus" is a Latin term which literally means "you may have the body." The writ is issued to produce a person who has been detained, whether in prison or in private custody, before a court and to release him if such detention is found illegal.

In September, 2018, the Supreme Court reiterated that writ of habeas corpus can't filed for a person in police custody ordered by a Magistrate. The Supreme Court bench said that as the custody is awarded by the Magistrate, it cannot be considered unlawful detention

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

20. Char-chaporis are shifting riverine islands of which of the following river?

- A. Ganga
- B. Yamuna
- C. Indus
- D. Brahmaputra

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Months ahead of the Assembly elections, a proposed "Miya museum" reflecting the "culture and heritage of the people living in char-chaporis" has stirred up a controversy in Assam.

The 'Miya' community comprises descendants of Muslim migrants from East Bengal (now Bangladesh) to Assam. They came to be referred to as 'Miyas', often in a derogatory manner.

The community migrated in several waves — starting with the British annexation of Assam in 1826, and continuing into Partition and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War — and have resulted in changes in demographic composition of the region.

Years of discontent among the indigenous people led to the six-year-long (1979-85) anti-foreigner Assam Agitation to weed out the "illegal immigrant", who was perceived as trying to take over jobs, language and culture of the indigenous population.

Char-chaporis are shifting riverine islands of the Brahmaputra and are primarily inhabited by the Muslims of Bengali-origin (pejoratively referred to as 'Miyas').

A char is a floating island while chaporis are low-lying flood-prone riverbanks.

The website of the Directorate of Char Areas Development puts the population of chars at 24.90 lakh as per a socio-economic survey in 2002-03.

While Bengali-origin Muslims primarily occupy these islands, other communities such as Misings, Deoris, Kocharis, Nepalis also live here.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

21. With reference to the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, consider the following statements:

1. Supreme Court diluted the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to grant anticipatory bail to accused persons.
2. 'Review' of a Supreme Court judgment is done by the same Bench.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect:

The Supreme Court recalled its directions in a March, 2018 verdict that had effectively diluted provisions of arrest under the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. This was following a plea by the Centre seeking a review of that judgment. Supreme Court diluted the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to grant anticipatory bail to accused persons and directed that the police conduct a preliminary enquiry into whether a complaint under the law is "frivolous or motivated" before registering a case. Both conditions were not part of the original legislation. It had reasoned that members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes use the 1989 law to lodge false complaints, leading to the arrest of innocent persons. The March 2018 judgment triggered widespread protests and compelled the government to amend the Act to negate the effect of the ruling. It also filed a review petition against the verdict. In its judgment on the review petition, Supreme Court said human failing and not caste is the reason for the filing of false criminal complaints. The court condemned its earlier judgment, saying it was against "basic human dignity" to treat all SC/ST community members as "a liar or crook".

Statement 2 is correct:

‘Review’ of a Supreme Court judgment is done by the same Bench. ‘Overruling’ means that the law laid down in one case is overruled in another case. When a higher court on appeal alters the judgment of a lower court, it is called ‘reversal’.

22. With reference to a study conducted by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) on female labour force participation, consider the following statements:

1. Many female candidates in the age group of 15-19 years are actively entering in the labour force.
2. Just one out of five persons in the 15-30 years age bracket, entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

According to an internal study conducted by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), just one out of five persons — in the 15-30 years age bracket — entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023. National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public-private-partnership working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

Key findings of an internal study conducted by the NSDC are:

7 crore additional individuals in the working-age (15-59 years) are expected to enter the labour force by 2023, of which 84.3 % or 5.9 crore will be in the age group 15-30 years.

Only six states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — are expected to account for 50 % (about 3 crore) of the new youth entrants (15-30 years) during 2019-23.

Just one out of five persons — in the 15-30 years age bracket — entering the labour force is expected to be a female in the five years ending 2023.

Many female candidates in the age group of 15-19 years may not be actively in the labour force, instead choosing to opt for higher education, and so, with the changing education pattern, female labour force participation rate should be watched closely for the 20-34 years age group.

Comparison with other countries:

While the NSO’s Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 had estimated female labour force participation rate for 15 years and above at 23.3 %, the comparative numbers of other countries highlight the labour market’s gender skew.

According to World Bank data, India’s female labour force participation rate ranks much lower than other Asian economies in 2019, including Vietnam (73 %), China (61 %), Singapore (60 %), Bangladesh (36 %), and is closer to the estimates in countries such as Lebanon (24 %), Pakistan (24 %), Libya (26 %), Tunisia (24 %) and Sudan (24 %).

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

23. Which of the following border line is/are associated India and China?

1. Johnson’s line

2. McDonald Line
3. Line of Control (LoC)
4. Line of Actual Control (LAC)
5. Radcliffe line

Select the correct option using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Johnson's line, McDonald line and Line of Actual Control (LAC) are associated with the India-China border.

Line of Control (LoC) and Radcliffe line are associated with the India-Pakistan border.

Hence, option C is correct.

24. Consider the following statements:

1. PSLV-C49 is the 2nd flight of PSLV in 'DL' configuration.
2. EOS-01 is an earth observation satellite, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fifty first flight (PSLV-C49), successfully launched EOS-01 along with nine international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on November 07, 2020.

PSLV-C49 is the 2nd flight of PSLV in 'DL' configuration (with 2 solid strap-on motors).

EOS-01 is an earth observation satellite, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

The nine customer satellites from Lithuania (1), Luxembourg (4) and USA (4) were launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

This is the first launch in the last ten months with the previous launch from Sriharikota was on December 11, 2019, when ISRO launched the 50th PSLV and its 75th launch from the spaceport.

Hence both statements are correct.

25. With reference to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
2. So far, the scheme has been rolled out for mobile and allied equipment as well as pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The government aims to expand the ambit of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to include as many as ten more sectors such as food processing and textiles other than the already included mobile phones, allied equipment, pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices.

In order to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on import bills, the central government in March this year introduced production linked incentive scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

Apart from inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units.

So far, the scheme has been rolled out for mobile and allied equipment as well as pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices manufacturing.

These sectors are labour intensive and are likely, and the hope is that they would create new jobs for the ballooning employable workforce of India.

The idea of PLI is important as the government cannot continue making investments in these capital intensive sectors as they need longer times for start giving the returns.

Instead, what it can do is to invite global companies with adequate capital to set up capacities in India. Apart from cutting down on imports, the PLI scheme also looks to capture the growing demand in the domestic market.

Hence both statements are correct.

26. With reference to the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. All the companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership firms, partnership firms and any person employing 100 or more persons shall come under the ambit of this Act.
2. It will include the central government or state government or any organisation owned by the central or state 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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

On the lines of Andhra Pradesh government, Haryana too has announced that it wants 75 per cent of private sector jobs in the state, till a certain salary slab, reserved for local candidates.

The state Assembly has passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 paving way for more employment opportunities for locals in private sector.

All the companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership firms, partnership firms and any person employing 10 or more persons shall come under the ambit of this Act. It shall not include the central government or state government or any organisation owned by the central or state government.

A candidate “who is domiciled in State of Haryana” is called a local candidate and shall be able to avail the benefit of this reservation while seeking employment in private sector.

Every employer shall be required to employ 75 per cent local candidates for the posts where the gross monthly salary or wages are not more than Rs. 50,000 or as notified by the government from time to time.

An employer can claim exemption from this 75% recruitment restriction, but only after going through a long procedure and only if the government appointed officers believe that the employer’s request seeking exemption holds merit.

The employer can be fined with a minimum Rs. 10,000 to a maximum Rs. 2 lakh once it is established that the employer has committed a violation of provisions of the Act.

Hence both statements are incorrect.

27. With reference to the conservation status of Gangetic Dolphin, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed under the first schedule of Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
2. It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Status of Conservation of Gangetic Dolphin:

In the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Appendix I (most endangered) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Appendix II (migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

28. With reference to the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC), consider the following statements:

1. As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020.
2. It was led by Chairman N K Singh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) led by Chairman N K Singh, submitted its Report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President of India.

As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020.

Last year, the Commission had submitted its report containing recommendations for the year 2020-21 which was accepted by the Union Government and tabled in the Parliament on 30 January 2020.

The Report will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in the Parliament by the Union Government.

Terms of reference (ToR):

The Commission was asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues in its terms of reference.

Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grant, the Commission was also asked to examine and recommend performance incentives for States in many areas like power sector, adoption of DBT, solid waste management etc.

The Commission was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and if so how such a mechanism could be operationalised.

Hence both statements are correct.

29. With reference to Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), consider the following statements:

1. It is an important statutory body in the field of direct taxes and its orders are accepted as final, on findings of fact.
2. ITAT was the first Tribunal to be created on 25th January, 1941 and is also known as 'Mother Tribunal'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the state-of-the-art office-cum-residential complex of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) at Cuttack on 11th November, 2020.

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, also known as ITAT, is an important statutory body in the field of direct taxes and its orders are accepted as final, on findings of fact.

It is presently headed by Mr. Justice (Retd) P.P. Bhatt, formerly Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand and High Court of Gujarat.

ITAT was the first Tribunal to be created on 25th January, 1941 and is also known as 'Mother Tribunal'. Starting with three benches in the year 1941, at Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta it has now grown to 63 Benches and two circuit benches spread across thirty cities of India.

The Cuttack Bench of the ITAT was created and started functioning from 23rd May, 1970. The jurisdiction of Cuttack Bench extends to the whole of Odisha.

Hence both statements are correct.

30. Consider the following statements:

1. The Centre would borrow from the market and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to pay the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to state governments.
2. Under the special window, the Centre has already borrowed Rs 12,000 crore in two equal instalments and passed it on to 21 states and three Union Territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

After Puducherry, Congress-ruled Rajasthan last week became the latest Opposition-ruled state to opt for a special borrowing window for meeting its compensation shortfall under Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Finance Ministry had said last month that the Centre would borrow from the market and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to pay the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to state governments. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre, and will appear as capital receipts for state governments.

How has the scheme progressed so far?

Under the special window, the Centre has already borrowed Rs 12,000 crore in two equal instalments and passed it on to 21 states and three Union Territories on October 23 and November 2.

The second round of borrowing was done at an interest of 4.42%, and the first round at 5.19%, lower than the cost of borrowing for states.

Hence both statements are correct.

31. Benapole-Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) is between India and which of the following country?

- A. Nepal
- B. Bhutan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Myanmar

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Indian army gifted 20 horses and 10 dogs to the Bangladesh army on Tuesday. The handing over was done in a ceremony at the Benapole-Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) on the India - Bangladesh Border.

The fully trained military horses and mine detecting dogs were gifted to Bangladesh in order to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

These equines and canines were trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army.

The Indian Army has also trained Bangladesh Army personnel for training and handling these specialist dogs and horses.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

32. What is mRNA-1273, recently seen in news?

- A. It is the working name of Moderna's vaccine against novel coronavirus disease.
- B. Newly found Exoplanet.
- C. New robot designed in China to help save lives on the frontline during the coronavirus outbreak.
- D. None of the above.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

US stock markets went soaring on the back of promising results from mRNA-1273 vaccine against novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) developed by US pharmaceutical company Moderna. mRNA-1273 is the working name of Moderna's vaccine, which is currently in Phase 1 clinical trials under the aegis of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The mRNA in the name means messenger RNA, which carries the genetic formula for the coding of a specific protein. In this vaccine, the particular mRNA used codes for the most distinguishing feature of the SARS-CoV2 — the spike protein — which is also the appendage that the virus uses to enter the cell and replicate. The vaccine, when injected into a person, codes for the spike protein. Thus even without the introduction of an attenuated (recognisable but not harmful) virus into the body, the body learns what the virus looks like and arms itself with the antibodies that are required to act against it.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

33. Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), often mentioned in news, is between Russia and:

- A. Armenia

- B. China
- C. India
- D. Turkey

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Russia brokered a new peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the two countries that have been in a military conflict for over six weeks over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus. As per the new peace deal, both sides will now maintain positions in the areas that they currently hold, which will mean a significant gain for Azerbaijan as it has reclaimed over 15-20 per cent of its lost territory during the recent conflict, the AFP reported.

Further, under this agreement, all military operations are suspended, Russian peacekeepers will be deployed along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor that connects the region to Armenia.

Straddling western Asia and Eastern Europe, Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists.

Russia's role in the conflict has been somewhat opaque since it supplies arms to both countries and is in a military alliance with Armenia called the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance that was signed on 15 May 1992.

In 1992, six post-Soviet states belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States signed the Collective Security Treaty (also referred to as the "Tashkent Pact" or "Tashkent Treaty").

Its 6 members are: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

Headquarters: Moscow, Russia.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

34. Which of the following countries borders Nagorno-Karabakh region?

- 1. Armenia
- 2. Azerbaijan
- 3. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Clashes erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region, reigniting concern about instability in the South Caucasus, a corridor for pipelines transporting oil and gas to world markets.

Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, a breakaway region that is inside Azerbaijan but is run by ethnic Armenians, declared martial law and mobilised their male populations.

Armenia said Azerbaijan had carried out an air and artillery attack on Nagorno-Karabakh. This is a decades-old conflict between majority Christian Armenia and mainly Muslim Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan in a conflict that broke out as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Though a ceasefire was agreed in 1994, after thousands of people were killed and many more displaced, Azerbaijan and Armenia frequently accuse each other of attacks around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

35. Which of the following sectors have been notified under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme?

1. Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery
2. Pharmaceuticals drugs
3. High Efficiency Solar PV Modules

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in the following 10 key sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports. Sectors (and Implementing Ministry/Department):

1. Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery: NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries.
2. Electronic/Technology Products: Department of Heavy Industries
3. Automobiles & Auto Components: Department of Heavy Industries.
4. Pharmaceuticals drugs: Department of Pharmaceuticals
5. Telecom & Networking Products: Department of Telecom
6. Textile Products (MMF segment and technical textiles): Ministry of Textiles
7. Food Products: Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
8. High Efficiency Solar PV Modules: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
9. White Goods (ACs & LED): Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
10. Speciality Steel: Ministry of Steel.

The above will be in addition to the already notified PLI schemes in the following sectors:
Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components: MEITY.

Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients: Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Manufacturing of Medical Devices.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

36. With reference to the Ramsar sites and the states to which they belong, consider the following pairs:

1. Kabartal Wetland: Bihar
2. Asan Conservation Reserve: Haryana
3. Saman Bird Sanctuary: Uttar Pradesh
4. Renuka Wetland: Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A.1, 3 and 4 only
- B.1, 2 and 3 only
- C.2, 3 and 4 only
- D.1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites, making them 'Wetlands of International Importance'.

Kabartal Wetland:

Also known as Kanwar Jheel, it covers 2,620 hectares of the Indo-Gangetic plains in the Begusarai district of Bihar. **Hence, the pair 1 is correctly matched.**

Significant biodiversity is present, with 165 plant species and 394 animal species recorded, including 221 bird species. It is also a valuable site for fish biodiversity with over 50 species documented.

Asan Conservation Reserve:

ACR is a 444-hectare stretch of the Asan River running down to its confluence with the Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. It is Uttarakhand's first Ramsar Site.

The damming of the River by the Asan Barrage in 1967 resulted in siltation above the dam wall, which helped to create some of the Site's bird-friendly habitats. Hence, the pair 2 is not correctly matched.

The Saman Bird Sanctuary and Parvati Agra Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh were declared as the Ramsar Sites in 2019. **Hence, the pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Renuka Wetland of Himachal Pradesh is the smallest Ramsar Site in India, followed by Chandertal Wetland in Himachal Pradesh. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

37. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rat-hole mining:

1. It involves digging of very small horizontal tunnels, usually only 3-4 feet high, which workers enter and extract coal.
2. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned it in 2014 on grounds of it being unscientific and unsafe for workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Supreme Court questioned the Centre and the State of Meghalaya that how come lives were lost in rat-hole mines. Rat-hole mining was banned by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) four years ago. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned it in 2014 on grounds of it being unscientific and unsafe for workers. Rat-hole mining involves digging of very small tunnels, usually only 3-4 feet high, which workers (often children) enter and extract coal.

Hence both statements are correct.

38. Which of the following is/are the measures to be adopted to recover from recession?

1. Direct and indirect taxes should be cut down.
2. Salaries and wages should be revised by the government.
3. The government usually goes on to follow a dear money supply policy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Direct and indirect taxes should be cut down, so that the consumers have higher disposable incomes.

Hence Statement 1 is correct

Salaries and wages should be revised by the government to encourage general spending by the consumers

Hence Statement 2 is correct

The government usually goes on to follow a cheap money supply policy by slashing down interest rates across the board and the lending procedure is also liberalized.

Hence Statement 3 is incorrect

39. Which of the following best describes 'insider trading'?

- A. share trading by promoters of a company.
- B. domestic selling of goods by SEZs established for export promotion.
- C. secret and clandestine trade by smugglers.
- D. share trading by people who have confidential information about the company.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Share trading by people who have confidential information about the company. Insider trading is defined as a malpractice wherein trade of a company's securities is undertaken by people who by virtue of their work have access to the otherwise non public information which can be crucial for making investment decisions.

40. Which of the following country is not the member of the ASEAN?

- A. Laos
- B. Cambodia
- C. Philippines
- D. Mauritius

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

There are 10 members in the ASEAN. The names are as follows; Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei.

41. With reference to technical recession, consider the following statements:

1. Quarterly GDP is accepted as a measure of economic activity and a "benchmark" for ascertaining a "technical recession".
2. So far India has not entered a technical recession in history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Latest RBI bulletin projects contraction for a second consecutive quarter, which means the economy is in a 'technical recession'.

Gross domestic product contracted 8.6 per cent in the quarter ended September, the Reserve Bank of India showed in its first ever published 'nowcast,' which is an estimate based on high-frequency data. The economy had slumped about 24 per cent in April to June.

India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history. As against a recessionary phase, where GDP growth rate could well be positive throughout, in a recession, the GDP necessarily contracts. During the 2008 global financial crisis, NBER pegged June 2009 as the end date for the recession but some metrics did not recover for much longer. For instance, "non-farm payroll employment, did not exceed the level of the previous peak until April 2014," according to NBER. To get around these empirical technicalities, commentators often consider a recession to be in progress when real GDP has declined for at least two consecutive quarters. That is how real quarterly GDP has

come to be accepted as a measure of economic activity and a “benchmark” for ascertaining a “technical recession”.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

42. With reference to the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery.
2. It will benefit any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has announced 12 key measures, as part of Government of India’s stimulus to the economy, under AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.0. AatmaNirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

A new scheme to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery has been launched. If EPFO-registered establishments take in new employees without EPFO registration or those who lost jobs earlier, the Yojana will benefit these employees.

Beneficiaries / New Employees under the scheme would be:

any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000

EPF members drawing monthly wage of less than Rs.15,000 who made exit from employment during COVID Pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020 and is employed on or after 01.10.2020.

Hence both statements are correct.

43. With reference to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, businesses, MUDRA borrowers and individuals (loans for business purposes), has been extended till March 31, 2021.
2. Entities will get additional credit up to 20% of outstanding credit with a tenor of five years, including 1 year moratorium on principal repayment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, businesses, MUDRA borrowers and individuals (loans for business purposes), has been extended till March 31, 2021.

A Credit guarantee support scheme ECLGS 2.0 is being launched for Healthcare sector and 26 stressed sectors with credit outstanding of above Rs. 50 crore and up to ₹ 500 Crores on 29.2.2020 stressed due to COVID-19, among other criteria. Entities will get additional credit up to 20% of outstanding credit with a tenor of five years, including 1 year moratorium on principal repayment. This scheme will be available till 31.3.2021.

Hence both statements are correct.

44. With reference to the AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.0, consider the following statements:

1. ₹3,000 Crore boost is being provided to EXIM Bank for promoting project exports under Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS Scheme).
2. ₹900 Crore is being provided to Department of Biotechnology for Research and Development of Indian COVID Vaccine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has announced 12 key measures, as part of Government of India's stimulus to the economy, under AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.0.

₹3,000 Crore boost is being provided to EXIM Bank for promoting project exports under Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS Scheme). This will help EXIM Bank facilitate Lines of Credit development assistance activities and promote exports from India.

₹10,200 Crore additional budget stimulus is being provided for capital and industrial expenditure on domestic defence equipment, industrial infrastructure and green energy.

₹900 Crore is being provided to Department of Biotechnology for Research and Development of Indian COVID Vaccine.

Hence both statements are correct.

45. With reference to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:

1. ASEAN is a regional grouping of India and South East Asian nations.
2. ASEAN is the second largest trading partner of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.

It was established on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Ten Members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

‘ASEAN+1’ comprises India and ASEAN

Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

ASEAN countries have a total population of 650 million people and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 2.8 trillion. It is India’s 4th largest trading partner with about USD 86.9 billion in trade.

Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

46. With reference to the Phases of Economy, consider the following statements:

1. The overall output of goods and services is measured annually for both expansionary and recessionary phases.
2. A business cycle is created by clubbing together expansionary and recessionary phases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

According to the Reserve Bank of India's, “nowcasting”, India’s economy will contract by 8.6% in the second consecutive quarter (July, August, September) of the current financial year which means the economy is in a ‘technical recession’.

In simpler words, a technical recession is two quarters in a row of economic contraction.

Expansionary Phase: When the overall output of goods and services typically measured by the GDP increases from one quarter to another (not annually). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Recessionary Phase: When the overall output of goods and services typically measured by the GDP decreases from one quarter (or month) to another.

Business Cycle: It is composed of concerted cyclical upswings and downswings in the broad measures of economic activity which are output, employment, income, and sales in other words it is a cycle created by the expansionary and recessionary phases clubbed together.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

47. With reference to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consider the following statements:

1. Members of the RCEP make up nearly two-third of the world's population.
2. RCEP will be the largest free trade agreement (FTA) in the world.
3. India is a member of RCEP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) consists of 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

It excludes the USA, which withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2017.

Negotiations over the RCEP deal began in 2012. India was also part of the negotiations but it pulled out in 2019 over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Members of the RCEP make up nearly a third of the world's population and account for 29% of global gross domestic product (GDP). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The China-backed group will emerge as the largest free trade agreement (FTA) in the world surpassing both the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the European Union (EU).

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

48. With reference to the draft rules under the Code on Social Security, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It provide for Aadhaar based registration including self-registration by unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers on the portal of the Central Government.
2. The rules provide for single electronic registration of an establishment including cancellation of the registration in case of closure of business activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the draft rules under the Code on Social Security, 2020.

The draft rules also provide for Aadhaar based registration including self-registration by unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers on the portal of the Central Government.

The rules further provide for Aadhaar based registration of Building and Other Construction Workers on the specified portal of the Central Government and the State Government or the State Welfare Board. Provision has also been made in the rules regarding gratuity to an employee who is on fixed term employment.

The rules also provide for single electronic registration of an establishment including cancellation of the registration in case of closure of business activities.

Provision has also been made regarding manner and conditions for exiting of an establishment from EPFO and ESIC coverage.

The procedure for self-assessment and payment of Cess in respect of building and other construction workers has been elaborated in the rules.

The rate of Interest for delayed payment of such cess has been reduced from 2 per cent every month or part of a month to 1 per cent.

Hence both statements are correct.

49. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), consider the following statements:

1. The Government had announced a relief package "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana" which also included relief for poor families who had availed of an LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).
2. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme, an adult woman belonging to a poor family not having LPG connection in her household, is an eligible beneficiary under the expanded scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Cabinet has approved the extension of time limit by three months w.e.f. 01.07.2020 for availing the benefits of "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana" for Ujjwala beneficiaries.

The Government had announced a relief package " Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana" which also included relief for poor families who had availed of an LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

Under the PMGKY-Ujjwala, it was decided to provide free of cost refills for PMUY consumers for a period of 3 months w.e.f. 01.04.2020.

Under the Scheme, Rs. 9709.86 Cr was transferred directly into the bank accounts of Ujjwala beneficiaries during April- June 2020 and 11.97 Crore cylinders were delivered to the PMUY beneficiaries.

Now, the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to extend the time-limit for availing the advance by three months.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme, an adult woman belonging to a poor family not having LPG connection in her household, is an eligible beneficiary under the expanded scheme.

Hence both statements are correct.

50. With reference to the BS-VI emission standards, consider the following statements:

1. It provide for stricter and cleaner emission norms and are at par with the emission standards being followed across the world.
2. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has recently issued an order mandating distinct colour band for number plate sticker for BS-6 four-wheel vehicles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued an order dated 5th June 2020 mandating Distinct colour band for number plate sticker for BS-6 four-wheel vehicles. The order mandates a strip of green colour of 1 cm width on top of the existing sticker carrying details of registration for BS-VI vehicles of any fuel type i.e. for petrol or CNG which have a light blue colour sticker and a diesel vehicle which is of orange colour. These stickers will now have a green strip of 1 cm on top for BS VI, as mandated. The BS-VI emission standards, which have been mandated w.e.f. 1st April, 2020, provide for stricter and cleaner emission norms and are at par with the emission standards being followed across the world. Such distinct identification of vehicles for such emissions standard as is also being followed in other countries. Hence both statements are correct.

51. Which of the following countries are part of ASEAN?

1. Brunei
2. Cambodia
3. Indonesia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, 15 countries solidified their participation in the RCEP. Even as India opted to stay out after walking out of discussions last year, the new trading bloc has made it clear that the door will remain open for India to return to the negotiating table.

Described as the “largest” regional trading agreement to this day, RCEP was originally being negotiated between 16 countries — ASEAN members and countries with which they have free trade agreements (FTAs), namely Australia, China, Korea, Japan, New Zealand and India.

The purpose of RCEP was to make it easier for products and services of each of these countries to be available across this region. Negotiations to chart out this deal had been on since 2013, and India was expected to be a signatory until its decision last November.

On November 4, 2019, India decided to exit discussions over “significant outstanding issues”.

Its decision was to safeguard the interests of industries like agriculture and dairy and to give an advantage to the country’s services sector.

Escalating tensions with China are a major reason for India’s decision.

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are the ten members of ASEAN.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

52. With reference to the Ramsar Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
2. The Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India has added two more Ramsar sites. They are Lonar lake in Maharashtra which is the only crater lake of the country while the other is Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra of Uttar Pradesh. The Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.

It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, and places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag ‘Ramsar site’.

The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

Recently, Kabartal in Bihar’s Begusarai district was recognised as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in the state, under the Ramsar Convention, according to the Union Environment Ministry.

The Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was added to the list in October this year.

Hence both statements are correct.

53. Consider the following statements:

1. Habeas corpus is re-examination of an order given by judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative authorities.
2. Certiorari is directing judicial or quasi-judicial authorities to stop proceedings which it has no jurisdiction for.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: A Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde observed that it is “trying to discourage” individuals from filing petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution. Article 32 is one of the fundamental rights listed in the Constitution that each citizen is entitled. It deals with the ‘Right to Constitutional Remedies’, or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution. Both the High Courts and the Supreme Court can be approached for violation or enactment of fundamental rights through five kinds of writs:

o Habeas corpus – related to personal liberty in cases of illegal detentions and wrongful arrests. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

o Mandamus — directing public officials, governments, courts to perform a statutory duty;

o Quo warrantum — to show by what warrant is a person holding public office;

o Prohibition — directing judicial or quasi-judicial authorities to stop proceedings which it has no jurisdiction for; and

o Certiorari — re-examination of an order given by judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative authorities. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Hence option (d) is correct.

54. With respect to 2018 report on “Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)”, consider the following statements:

1. Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country, followed by Nagaland.
2. Haryana featured at the bottom of the list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation :

The three north-eastern states top the 2018 report on “Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)”.

With 1,084 females born per thousand males, Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country, followed by Nagaland at 965 females and Mizoram at 964.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

Manipur, on the other hand, featured at the bottom of the list. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

The sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) is an important indicator to map the gender gap of a population. Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1,084), followed by Nagaland (965), Mizoram (964) and Kerala (963). Meanwhile, lowest SRB has been reported by Manipur (757), Lakshadweep (839) and Daman & Diu (877), followed by Punjab (896),” the report, prepared by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, read.

55. Recently an MoU on “Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects” was signed with which of the following countries?

- A. Sri lanka
- B. Vietnam
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Qatar

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

The 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kazakhstan was held.

During the consultations, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation within the framework of their Strategic Partnership. The consultations covered political, economic and commercial, energy, defence, space, consular and cultural matters. An MoU on “Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects in Kazakhstan” was signed.

Hence option(C) is correct.

56. India is not a member of which of the following international groupings?

- A. BRICS
- B. Mekong-Ganga Cooperation
- C. APEC
- D. Shanghai Cooperation

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

The five-nation grouping BRICS has adopted a new counter-terrorism strategy to effectively deal with terrorism. The objective of BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation is to complement and strengthen the existing bilateral and multilateral ties among the BRICS countries, and to make a meaningful contribution to the global efforts of preventing and combating the threat of terrorism.

BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation: It comprises six member countries, namely India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Shanghai Cooperation: It comprises of 8 Member States, namely China, India, Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It comprises of Australia · Brunei · Canada · Chile · Hong Kong · Indonesia · Japan · Malaysia · Mexico · New Zealand · Papua New Guinea · Peru · People's Republic of China · Philippines · Republic of China (Taiwan).

Hence option (c) is correct.

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Vulture Action Plan 2020-25 aims to ensure minimum use of Diclofenac.
2. All the species of vultures in India are critically-endangered.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched a Vulture Action Plan 2020-25 for the conservation of vultures in the country.

Some of the objectives of the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025.

To ensure minimum use of Diclofenac.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

To Prevent the poisoning of the principal food of vultures, the cattle carcasses, with veterinary NSAIDs, by ensuring that sale of veterinary NSAIDs is regulated and is disbursed only on prescription and by ensuring that treatment of livestock is done only by qualified veterinarians.

Between the 1990s and 2007, numbers of three presently critically-endangered species, the Oriental white-backed, long-billed and slender-billed vultures decreased massively with 99% of the species having been wiped out.

The number of red-headed vultures, also critically-endangered now, declined by 91% while the Egyptian vultures by 80%.

Indian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps Fulvus*), Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps Himalayensis*), Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius Monachus*) and Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (*Gypaetus Barbatus*) are Near Threatened. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

58. With reference to the deemed forests, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of deemed forests has been clearly defined in the Forest Conservation Act of 1980.
2. The Supreme Court in the case of T N Godavarman Thirumalpad (1996) accepted a wide definition of forests under the Forest Conservation Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

Karnataka Forest Minister announced in the Assembly that the state government would soon declassify 6.64 lakh hectares of the 9.94 lakh hectares of deemed forests in the state (nearly 67%) and hand it over to Revenue authorities.

While the concept of deemed forests has not been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, the Supreme Court in the case of T N Godavarman Thirumalpad (1996) accepted a wide definition of forests under the Act.

“The word ‘forest’ must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2 (1) of the Forest Conservation Act,” the Supreme Court said in its December 12, 1996 order.

“The term ‘forest land’ occurring in Section 2 will not only include ‘forest’ as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any areas recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership.

The provisions enacted in the Forest Conservation Act 1980 for the conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith must apply clearly to all forest so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof,” the court said.

The issue of deemed forests is a contentious one in Karnataka, with legislators across party lines often alleging that large amounts of agriculture and non-forest land are “unscientifically” classified as such.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

59. What is Param Siddhi, recently seen in news?

- A.Indian supercomputer
- B.Exoplanet
- C.Comet
- D.None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

Indian supercomputer Param Siddhi has achieved global ranking of 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world released on 16th November 2020.

Param Siddhi is the high performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC.

The supercomputer with Rpeak of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax (Sustained) was conceived by C-DAC and developed jointly with support of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under NSM.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

60. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme), consider the following statements:

1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries inaugurated the capacity building component of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme). Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the PM-FME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.

It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

61. With reference to New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral development bank to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in Asia.
2. It has observer status in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

New Development Bank (NDB) 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. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

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

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

To fulfill its purpose, the Bank supports public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments. NDB has so far approved 14 projects in India for an amount of \$4,183 million.

62. With reference to Willow Warbler, consider the following statements:

1. Their natural habitat is in Amazon forests.
2. Their status in IUCN Red List is Least Concerned.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, **Willow Warbler** has been sighted for the first time in India at Vellayani-Punchakkari paddy fields, Kerala.

They breed throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

They migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.

Features:

- It is one of the longest migrating small birds.
- The bird weighs around 10 grams and its long wing feathers help it fly long distances.
- The species is affected by drought conditions in its wintering quarters and habitat alterations due to human population expansion.

IUCN Red List: Least Concerned.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

63. With reference to Prompt Corrective Action (PCA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to check the problem of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Finance.
3. Capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and Return on Assets (RoA) are some of parameters of PCA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.3 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) aims to check the problem of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002 as a structured early-intervention mechanism for banks that become undercapitalised due to poor asset quality, or vulnerable due to loss of profitability.

RBI can place restrictions on dividend distribution, branch expansion, and management compensation. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The RBI has specified certain regulatory trigger points, as a part of prompt corrective action (PCA) Framework, in terms of three parameters, i.e. capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA), for initiation of certain structured and discretionary actions in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

64. Consider the following statements about the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM):

1. The mission is a combined effort of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).
2. Param Siddhi and Pratyush are the two supercomputers developed under the NSM ranking in top 500 computers of the world.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), launched in 2015, aims at empowering the national academic and Research and Development (R&D) institutions spread over the country by installing a vast

supercomputing grid comprising more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.

The mission is implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). Hence, statement 1 is correct. Param Siddhi and Pratyush, both the supercomputers developed under this mission have been ranked 63rd and 78th (respectively) among the top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Param Siddhi is a High Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer developed by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.

Pratyush is a supercomputer used for weather forecasting at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

65. Which of the following is correct about maritime zones according to UNCLOS convention (1982)?

1. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines.
2. The contiguous is an intermediary zone between the territorial sea and the high seas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) has been concluded in the Andaman Sea close to the Strait of Malacca.

It aims to keep part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade and also ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS). Some of the UNCLOS Maritime zones:

Territorial Sea:

The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The coastal states have sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territorial sea. These rights extend not only on the surface but also to the seabed, subsoil, and even airspace.

But the coastal states' rights are limited by the innocent passage through the territorial sea.

Contiguous Zone:

The contiguous zone extends seaward up to 24 nm from its baselines. It is an intermediary zone between the territorial sea and the high seas.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea.

Unlike the territorial sea, the contiguous zone only gives jurisdiction to a state on the ocean's surface and floor. It does not provide air and space rights.

66. 'Putrajaya Vision 2040' has been in the news. Which of the following groupings has adopted this vision?

- A. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- B. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- C. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, a virtual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held.

During the meeting, APEC leaders adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals named after the Indonesian town where leaders agreed in 1994 to free and open trade and investment. Hence, option A is correct.

It recognised the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such a challenging time (Covid-19).

APEC's 21 member economies are home to around 2.8 billion people and represented approximately 59% of world GDP and 49% of world trade in 2015.

India is not a member.

67. Consider the following statements about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

1. It is an economic agreement between the ASEAN and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) member partners.
2. India is involved in the RCEP as a member nation of the ASEAN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only...
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega-regional economic agreement being negotiated since 2012, between ASEAN and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) member partners.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

India had dropped out of the RCEP in November 2019 in ASEAN+3 summit. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Although India opted to stay out after walking out of discussions last year, the new trading bloc has made it clear that the door will remain open for India to return to the negotiating table.

Various economists have speculated chances of Sri Lanka joining Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Sri Lanka joining RCEP will increase the influence of China in India's neighbourhood and reduce Sri Lanka's dependency on India.

68. Consider the following statements:

1. It is characterized by the violent defence of a racial, ethnic or pseudo-national identity.
2. The defence, by violent means, of a religious identity perceived to be under attack.
3. An individual's transformation from a moderate, law-abiding citizen into an active, anti-state, violent extremist.

The above statements represent which of the following phenomena?

- A.Radicalisation
- B.Maoism
- C.Terrorism
- D.Nationalism

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The word "radical" refers to change in the fundamental nature of something, thus Radicalism is a set of beliefs or actions of people who advocate thorough or complete political or social reform.

Radicalisation refers to the process of an individual's transformation from a moderate, law-abiding citizen into an active, anti-state, violent extremist.

Types of Radicalisation:

- a) Right-Wing Extremism: It is characterized by the violent defence of a racial, ethnic or pseudo-national identity, and is also associated with radical hostility towards state authorities, minorities, immigrants and/or left-wing political groups.
- b) Politico-Religious Extremism: It results from political interpretation of religion and the defence, by violent means, of a religious identity perceived to be under attack (via international conflicts, foreign policy, social debates, etc.). Any religion may spawn this type of violent radicalization.
- c) Left-Wing Extremism: It focuses primarily on anti-capitalist demands and calls for the transformation of political systems considered responsible for producing social inequalities, and that may ultimately employ violent means to further its cause.

Hence, option A is correct.

69. With reference to the kala-azar disease, consider the following statements:

1. In India LEISHMANIA DONOVANI is the only parasite that causes this disease.
2. It is endemic only to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation :

Researchers at the IIT Hyderabad have been able to achieve sustained release of the drug (Amphotericin B) for up to 10 days, which can be used for treating kala-azar. This is move towards oral administration of kala-azar drug, which currently has major challenges.

It is a disease caused by parasites of the Leishmania type. It is spread by the bite of certain types of sandflies. It is classified as a neglected tropical disease.

Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) is also known as kala-azar, black fever, and Dumdum fever. The parasite is spread to humans by bites from infected female sand flies. It attacks the immune system, and is almost always fatal if not treated. This parasitic disease is confined to humans. In this, the parasite migrates to the internal organs such as the liver, bone marrow and spleen (hence 'visceral'). This disease is the second-largest parasitic killer in the world (after malaria). It has a high fatality rate. If untreated, it can kill within two years of the onset of the ailment.

Kala azar is endemic to the Indian subcontinent in four countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal). Within India it is endemic to four contiguous states (West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh). In India LEISHMANIA DONOVANI is the only parasite that causes this disease. Under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Government of India is coordinating with endemic States to eliminate the disease.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

70. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Jhum cultivation'

1. It is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
2. It is particularly practiced in the northeastern States of India.

Select the correct statements

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both
- D. None

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

71. With reference to the Pusa Decomposer, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by DRDO.
2. 'Pusa Decomposer' is essentially a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

Union Environment Minister has said that the Pusa Decomposer will be used on a trial basis this year in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

The burning of paddy stubble left in the fields after harvest has been a cause of concern for the past several years as it contributes to air pollution in the northern Gangetic plains and its already polluted cities like Delhi.

It is a common practice in October and November across North West India, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to quickly clear crop residue from their fields before planting the rabi wheat crop.

Pusa Decomposer:

To tackle the issue 'Pusa Decomposer' capsule has been developed by Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI).

'Pusa Decomposer' is essentially a fungi-based liquid solution that can soften hard stubble to the extent that it can be easily mixed with soil in the field to act as compost.

This would then rule out the need to burn the stubble, and also help in retaining the essential microbes and nutrients in soil that are otherwise damaged when the residue is burned.

There are seven strains of fungi that IARI has identified after research which help in rapid breakdown of hard stubble. These seven strains of fungi are packed into four capsules.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

72. Under Prompt Corrective Action (PCA), RBI has specified trigger points in terms of which of the following parameters?

1. Capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR)
2. Net non-performing assets (NPA)
3. Return on Assets (RoA)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation :

The Reserve Bank has initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) against Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) due to a high level of bad loans, lack of sufficient capital to manage risks, and negative return on assets for two consecutive years. The regulatory action may cast doubts over the proposed merger of Indiabulls Housing Finance with LVB, which is awaiting RBI nod.

PCA Framework are the corrective measures suggested by RBI that should be taken by commercial banks when its financial condition worsens beyond a level. Objective is to maintain sound financial health of commercial banks. Under it, RBI has specified trigger points in terms of three parameters:

Capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR),
Net non-performing assets (NPA) and
Return on Assets (RoA).

If a bank hits the trigger point (like CRAR of 9%, 6%, 3%) then RBI initiates certain structured/mandatory and discretionary actions in respect of that bank. Structured actions are those which are essential to restore the financial health of banks. Discretionary actions are taken by RBI depending upon the profile of each bank. E.g. banks are restricted from certain riskier activities such as expanding the number of branches, increasing the size of their loan book and paying dividend. The PCA framework is applicable only to commercial banks. It is not applicable to –Co-operative banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Financial Management Institutions (FMIs). Currently, 11 out of 21 Public-sector Banks are under the RBI’s PCA framework.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

73. With respect to “Chang’e-5 lunar mission”, consider the following statements:

1. It will become the first probe to attempt to bring back samples of lunar rock from a previously unexplored portion of the Moon.
2. It is the Chinese National Space Administration’s (CNSA) lunar sample return mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

Hence Statement 1 is incorrect: On November 24, China’s Chang’e-5 lunar mission will become the first probe in over four decades (Since 1976) to attempt to bring back samples of lunar rock from a previously unexplored portion of the Moon. The spacecraft is set to return to Earth around December 15.

Hence Statement 2 is correct: It is the Chinese National Space Administration’s (CNSA) lunar sample return mission that is set to launch on November 24 from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on Hainan Island in China.

The goal of the mission is to land in the Mons Rumker region of the moon, where it will operate for one lunar day, which is two weeks long and return a 2 kg sample of the lunar rock possibly by digging about 2 metres deep into the surface of the Moon. The mission comprises a lunar orbiter, a lander and an ascent probe that will lift the lunar samples back into orbit and return them back to Earth. The probe is named after the Chinese Moon goddess who is traditionally accompanied by a white or jade rabbit.

Early in 2019, China’s Chang’e-4 probe successfully transmitted images from the far side of the Moon, also referred to as the dark side. This was the first probe to land in this portion of the Moon.

Hence option (b) is correct.

74. With respect to “Negative-yield bonds”, consider the following statements:

1. They are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount higher than the purchase price of the bond.
2. These are generally issued by central banks or governments, and investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

Last week, China sold negative-yield debt for the first time, and this saw a high demand from investors across Europe. As yields in Europe are even lower, there was a huge demand for the 4- billion-euro bonds issued by China.

Hence Statement 1 is incorrect: They are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount lower than the purchase price of the bond.

Hence Statement 2 is correct: These are generally issued by central banks or governments, and investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them.

They attract investments during times of stress and uncertainty as investors look to protect their capital from significant erosion. At a time when the world is battling the Covid-19 pandemic and interest rates in developed markets across Europe are much lower, investors are looking for relatively better-yielding debt instruments to safeguard their interests.

Hence option (b) is correct.

75. With reference to the Anganwadis, consider the following statements:

1. They are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide a package of six services.
2. The aim of the ICDS scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

For every 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in the country, only seven are in urban areas, according to the

government's response to a Right to Information (RTI) query from The Hindu Newspaper. Anganwadis or day-care centres are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) by the Women and Child Development Ministry to provide a package of six services. The services include supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; immunisation, nutrition and health education; as well as referral services. The aim of the scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition. Beneficiaries include children in the age group of six months to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers. While there were a total 7.95 crore beneficiaries of the anganwadi scheme in the country, as on September 30, 2019, only 55 lakh were registered at urban anganwadis. This is primarily because of an acute paucity of anganwadi centres in urban areas.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

76. With reference to Negative Yield Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. These are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount lower than the purchase price of the bond.
2. These are generally issued by central banks or governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, demand for negative yield bonds is on rise in the global market.

Negative yield bonds are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount lower than the purchase price of the bond.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

These are generally issued by central banks or governments, and investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Generally, investors purchase the bonds at their face value, which is the principal amount invested. In return, investors typically earn a yield of a bond.

Each bond has a maturity date, which is when the investor gets paid back the principal amount.

77. The Arria Formula, an informal arrangement of discussion is related to?

- A.North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- B.World Trade Organization (WTO)
- C.International Labour Organization (ILO)
- D.United Nations Security Council (UNSC)...

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Arria Formula is an informal arrangement that allows the Security Council greater flexibility to be briefed about international peace and security issues. It has been used frequently and assumed growing importance since it was first implemented in March, 1992.

At a recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting, convened under the Arria Formula (informally convened at the request of a UNSC member), India called for an “immediate comprehensive ceasefire” in Afghanistan, while welcoming all opportunities to bring peace to the country.

Hence, option D is correct.

78. With reference to the Poshan Abhiyaan, or the National Nutrition Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children by reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anaemia and low birth weight by 2022.
2. The 50% of funding is from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

According to an analysis of the data shared in Parliament, The State governments/UTs have utilised a mere 30% of the funds released under the Poshan Abhiyaan, or the National Nutrition Mission, since it was launched in 2017. Barring Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar, none of the governments used even half of the sum granted in the past three years. The five best performers in terms of fund utilisation were Mizoram (65.12%), Lakshadweep (61.08%), Bihar (55.17%), Himachal Pradesh (53.29%) and Meghalaya (48.37%). The worst five performers were Punjab (0.45%), Karnataka (0.74%), Kerala (8.75%), Jharkhand (13.94%) and Assam (23.01%).

The Poshan Abhiyaan, the Centre’s flagship programme, is aimed at improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children by reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anaemia and low birth weight by 2022. It is meant to benefit more than 10 crore people. It was launched in 2018 with a total budget of ₹9,046.17 crore for three years. 50% of which is through budgetary support, which is further divided into 60:40 between the Centre and the States, 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States and 100% for the Union Territories without legislature. The remaining 50% is from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks. As a result, the Centre’s total share will be ₹2,849.54 crore.

Hence both statements are correct.

79. With reference to the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It recommends 20 years imprisonment if an accused fails to prove that the conversion of the woman was not for marriage or by use of force, allurement etc.
2. The notice period to the district magistrate for the religious conversion has been doubled to two months from a month in an earlier draft.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation :

The UP Cabinet cleared an ordinance to ban religious conversion for marriage. The new law will put the onus on the defendant to prove that conversion was not for marriage.

The Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020, recommends 1-5 years imprisonment if an accused fails to prove that the conversion of the woman was not for marriage or by use of force, allurement etc.

The jail sentence for the offence would be 3-10 years if the woman is from the SC/ST community or is seen as part of mass conversion.

The notice period to the district magistrate for the religious conversion has been doubled to two months from a month in an earlier draft.

The ordinance comes days after the Allahabad high court said in a verdict that the right to choose a partner or live with a person of choice was part of a citizen's fundamental right to life and liberty. The verdict also said earlier court rulings that 'religious conversion for marriage was unacceptable' was not good in law.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath cited earlier HC verdicts to support his government's decision to bring a law against 'love jihad', a term used by RSS outfits to call what they believe is a conspiracy by Muslims to convert Hindu women by luring them into love and marriage.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

80. With reference to the eVIN – Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed technology that digitises vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
2. eVIN supports the central government's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points across states and UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that the government is using eVIN – Electronic Vaccine

Intelligence Network in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to identify primary beneficiaries and vaccine distribution networks.

Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network is an indigenously developed technology that digitises vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.

The innovative eVIN was first launched across 12 states in 2015 to support better vaccine logistics management at cold chain points.

eVIN supports the central government's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points across states and UTs.

The Centre has begun its preparations for introduction of Covid-19 vaccine and a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) has been formed as the highest group that will guide the strategies for vaccine introduction.

Hence both statements are correct.

81. With reference to the 'National Portal for Transgender Persons', consider the following statements:

1. It would help a transgender person in applying for a Certificate and Identity card digitally from anywhere in the country.
2. Getting Transgender Certificate and Identity Cards as per their self-perceived identity is an important provision of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment launched a 'National Portal for Transgender Persons'. This National Portal for Transgender Persons has been developed within 2 months of Notification of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 on 29 September, 2020.

This Portal would help a transgender person in applying for a Certificate and Identity card digitally from anywhere in the country.

The most important benefit is that it helps the transgender person to get the I-Card without any physical interface and without having to visit any office. Through the Portal, they can monitor the status of their application that ensures transparency in the process.

Getting Transgender Certificate and Identity Cards as per their self-perceived identity is an important provision of The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Hence both statements are correct.

82. Consider the following statements regarding the North Indian Ocean Region:

1. The Cyclones Gati, Nisarga, Amphan and Nivar all have occurred in the North Indian Ocean Region.
2. India, Bangladesh, China, UAE and Yemen come under the North Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only...
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The North Indian Ocean Region covers tropical cyclones formed over Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

The 13 members, which come under the region, are Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen (but not China). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Cyclone Nivar is the fourth cyclone that has taken shape in the North Indian Ocean region this year. The first three cyclones were Cyclone Gati (made landfall in Somalia in November), Cyclone Amphan (eastern India witnessed it in May), and Cyclone Nisarga (in Maharashtra).

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Nivar will be the second cyclone to hit Tamil Nadu in two years after Cyclone Gaja in 2018.

83. 'Bru tribe' has been in the news recently, is related to which of the following geographical areas?

- A. North-East India
- B. Nilgiris
- C. Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- D. Chhattisgarh Plains

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

Hence, option is A is correct.

In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.

In 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Brus fled Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.

In January 2020, a quadrilateral agreement was signed by the Centre, the two state governments and Bru representatives to allow the remaining 32,000 to permanently settle in Tripura.

84. With reference to pardoning power of the President and Governor, consider the following statements:

1. The President has the pardoning power against the punishments of court martial.
2. Governor does not have the power to pardon death sentences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the President of the United States of America (USA) has exercised his powers under the constitution to pardon his former National Security Advisor.

Unlike the USA President, whose powers to grant pardons are almost unrestrained, the President of India has to act on the advice of the Cabinet.

The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161 which differs in the following two ways:

The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is the sentence of death but the pardoning power of the Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

85. With reference to One Nation, One Election, consider the following statements:

1. It will help keep a check on the poll expenses.
2. It would ensure timely implementation of the government policies.
3. It would reduce the burden on administrative setup.

Which of the statements given above can be termed as advantages of One Nation, One Election?

- A.1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3..

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The idea of One Nation, One Election is about structuring the Indian election cycle in a manner so that elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies are synchronised together so that the election to both can be held within a given span of time.

Advantages:

Help keep a check on the poll expenses, party expenses, etc. and also save public money.

Reduce the burden on administrative setup and security forces.

Ensure timely implementation of the government policies and also ensure that the administrative machinery is engaged in developmental activities rather than electioneering.

Solve the problem of governance on the part of the politicians who are ruling. It is generally seen that for short term political gains from a particular assembly election, ruling politicians avoid taking a harsh long term decision which can ultimately help the country in the long run.

Provide more time to all the stakeholders i.e. political parties, Election Commission of India (ECI), paramilitary forces, civilians for the preparation of elections once in five years.

Hence, option D is correct.

86. Which of the following statement is/are true for cyclones?

- A. Cyclones are centres of low pressure surrounded by closed isobars and having increasing pressure outwards.
- B. Cyclones range in shape from circulars, elliptical to 'V' shaped.
- C. Cyclones have an immense influence on the climate and weather.
- D. All the above are correct.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Cyclones are centres of low pressure surrounded by closed isobars and having increasing pressure outwards. From the outside, it has closed air circulation towards the Central low pressure in such a way that air blow inward in anticlockwise in the North Hemisphere and clockwise in the South Hemisphere. They range in shape from circulars, elliptical to 'V' shaped. They have an immense influence on the climate and weather.

87. The Athena SWAN Charter, recently seen in news, is related to:

- A. Enhancing gender equity in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) in the UK.
- B. an intelligence sharing alliance between BRICS countries
- C. a declaration of Central Banks of all G20 Countries
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation :

One of the focuses of the new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, currently being drafted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), will be to increase the participation of women in science. To this end, the DST will incorporate a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women and the advancement of the careers of women faculty and scientists.

The concept borrows from a programme started by the UK in 2005 called the Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network), which is now being adopted by many countries.

The Athena SWAN Charter is an evaluation and accreditation programme in the UK enhancing gender equity in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

88. With reference to the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal, consider the following statements:

1. The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.

2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation :

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched the India Climate Change Knowledge Portal.

The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the climate change issues.

It will be a single-point information resource that provides information on the different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries enabling users to access d status on these initiatives.

He also said that India has practically achieved its pre-2020 climate action targets.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

89. Consider the following statements about Diabetes:

- 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 is/are not correct?

- A.1 and 2 only
- B.2 only
- C.3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct 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.

Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 3 is not correct.

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.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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.

90. With reference to the Sikhism, consider the following statements:

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 correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 and 3 only
- C.3 only
- D.1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Guru Nanak Dev was born in 1459 at Talwandi Rai Bhoi 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). Hence, statement 1 and 2 are not correct.

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.

91. With reference to the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.

2. The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation :

Lok Sabha passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.

It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.

The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically. The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act. Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.

The Bill basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition. This will supplement the existing MSP procurement system which is providing stable income to farmers.

It will certainly pave the way for creating One India, One Agriculture Market and will lay the foundation for ensuring golden harvests for our hard working farmers.

Hence both statements are correct.