

September 2020, Current Affairs MCQ Compilation

1. Consider the following statements:

- 1.Served as the 13th President of India.
2. Appointed head of Planning Commission in 1991.
3. Awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

Above statements are about who among the following?

- A.Pranab Kumar Mukherjee
- B.Rajendra Prasad
- C.A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- D.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Answer: A

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled the passing away of former President Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Pranab Kumar Mukherjee (1935 – 2020) was an Indian politician who served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.

He was a senior leader in the Indian National Congress and occupied several ministerial portfolios in the Government of India. He first served as Finance Minister of India in 1982–84. He was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1985.

He was appointed head of Planning Commission in 1991 and foreign minister in 1995.

From 2004 until his resignation in 2012, Mukherjee held a number of key cabinet portfolios in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government – Defence (2004–06), External Affairs (2006–09) and Finance (2009–12) – apart from being Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha.

He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

2. W.r.t the draft EIA 2020, consider the foll statements:

1. All inland waterways projects & expansion of national highways will be exempt from prior clearance.
2. It contains prov. for post-facto project clearance and abandoning the public trust doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Opposition parties have claimed that the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) norms 2020 is a regressive departure from the 2006 version it seeks to replace.

Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India notified its first EIA norms in 1994, setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources.

Every development project has been required to go through the EIA process for obtaining prior environmental clearance ever since.

The 1994 EIA notification was replaced with a modified draft in 2006. Earlier this year, the government redrafted it again to incorporate the amendments and relevant court orders issued since 2006, and to make the EIA “process more transparent and expedient.”

Contentious Provisions of the 2020 draft:

Linear projects such as roads and pipelines in border areas will not require any public hearing. The ‘border area’ is defined as “area falling within 100 kilometres aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control with bordering countries of India.

All inland waterways projects and expansion/widening of national highways will be exempt from prior clearance. These include roads that cut through forests and dredging of major rivers.

It also exempts most building construction projects of built-up area up to 1,50,000 sq. m.

It also contains provisions for post-facto project clearance and abandoning the public trust doctrine. Projects operating in violation of the Environment Act will now be able to apply for clearance.

Violations of the provisions has to be reported either by a government authority or the developers themselves. There is no scope for any public complaint about violations. Instead, the reliance is on the violators to disclose, Suo motu, that they broke the law.

Hence both statements are correct.

3. India ranked ____ in the Environment Performance index 2020(june)?

- A. 158th
- B. 177th
- C. 168th
- D. 148th

Answer: C

Explanation:

India has ranked 168th out of 180 countries in the 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), according to researchers at Yale and Columbia universities, who say Indias decarbonization agenda needs to accelerate, and the country faces a number of serious environmental health risks, including poor air quality.

In the 2020 EPI - a biennial scorecard of national results on a range of sustainability issues - Denmark has ranked first in the world, followed by Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, France, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Germany in the top 10 countries. While Japan has ranked 12th, the United States of America ranks 24th, and China stands at 120th.

The researchers say that India struggles to perform well on several of the 2020 EPI's environmental issue categories. For air quality, India and Pakistan both rank at the very bottom of the 2020 EPI, at 179th and 180th places, respectively. By comparison, low air quality also continues to plague China, although its recent pollution controls and other environmental investments have helped it climb to 120th place in the EPI, 48 places ahead of India's 168th overall ranking.

4. Which of these are responsible for the implementation of FSSAI?

- A. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- C. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
- D. Directorate General of Health Services

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards , 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments. FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.

5. Consider the following statement about the NE Monsoon in India

1. Are retreating monsoon.
2. Are responsible for rainfall along the Coromandel Coast.
3. They pick up moisture from the Bay of Bengal before rainfall.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The North-East monsoon is the retreating monsoon in India. They move from land to the ocean and again from ocean to the land precipitating in South-eastern India.

6. Recently Rentai Chola era inscriptions have been unearthed from?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerela
- C. Andhra Pradesh

D. Karnataka

Answer: C

Explanation:

A rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key Points

The inscription was found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale, which are part of a fragmentary pillar excavated from a farmer's field.

Dolomite is a sedimentary carbonate rock composed mostly of calcium magnesium carbonate.

Shale or mudstone is a fine-grained sedimentary rock that forms from the compaction of silt and clay-size mineral particles.

The inscription was written in archaic Telugu. It was assigned to the 8th Century AD, when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

Text: The inscription seems to throw light on the record of a gift of six Marttus (a measuring unit) of land to a Brahmin Priest. Some lines are indicative of the priority given to morality in those days.

In July 2020, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had found the exact location of Renati Cholas' capital in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

ASI deciphered two inscriptions of Renati Cholas belonging to the 7th century. The first inscription speaks of their capital Erihal in Kamalapuram region in Kadapa, while the other speaks about the battle of Renati Cholas and Banas.

Renati Cholas:

The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present day Kadapa district.

The earliest of this family was Nandivarman (500 AD).

Renandu Cholas were the feudatories of the Chola dynasty.

These kings claimed that they belonged to Karikala Chola's dynasty.

They are said to be the first kingdom to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions, instead of Sanskrit.

7. The main aim of SCO is to generate cooperation between member nations on:

- A. Resolving border issues
- B. Countering Terrorism
- C. Economic Cooperation
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

The main aim to establish SCO is to generate cooperation between member nations on:

- 1. Resolving border issues
- 2. Security concerns
- 3. Military Cooperation
- 4. Countering Terrorism
- 5. Intelligence sharing
- 6. Economic Cooperation
- 7. Cultural Cooperation

8. Which of the following countries are not one of the members of “ QUAD “-the grouping of like-minded democracies ?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the Quad) is an informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills between member countries.[1] The forum was initiated as a dialogue in 2007 by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, with the support of Vice President Dick Cheney of the US, Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. The dialogue was paralleled by joint military exercises of an unprecedented scale, titled Exercise Malabar. The diplomatic and military arrangement was widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power, and the Chinese government responded to the Quad by issuing formal diplomatic protests to its members.

9. Among the following are correct regarding Turkey and Greece:

- A. Members of NATO
- B. Members of European Union
- C. Both
- D. None

Answer: A

Explanation:

At present, NATO has 30 members. In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. The other member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and North Macedonia (2020).

10. Pangong Tso Lake is located in which of the following eastern district of India?

- A. Pithoragarh
- B. Ladakh
- C. East Sikkim
- D. Lahul and Spiti

Answer: B

Explanation:

Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake situated at a height of about 4,350 m in the Ladakh Himalayas. It is 134 km long and 5 km wide at its broadest point.

In the Ladakhi language, Pangong means extensive concavity, and Tso is lake in Tibetan.

The brackish water lake freezes over in winter, and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.

It is not a part of the Indus river basin area and geographically a separate landlocked river basin.

The lake is not a Ramsar site yet. It is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

11. With reference to the 'D' voters, consider the following statements:

1. It is a category of voters in Assam whose citizenship is doubtful or under dispute.

2. This category was introduced in 1997 at the time the Election Commission of India (ECI) was revising the state's voter 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

Answer: C

Explanation:

D voter, sometimes also referred to as Dubious voter or Doubtful voter is a category of voters in Assam who are disenfranchised by the government on the account of their alleged lack of proper citizenship credentials. The D voters are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act, and the person declared as D voter is not given the elector's photo identity card.

On 17 July 1997, the Election Commission of India, issued a circular to the Government of Assam directing it to remove non-citizens from the electoral list. Following that, an intensive revision of electoral rolls began in Assam, involving door to door survey in order to enlist only genuine Indian citizens. The persons who could not provide evidence in favour of their Indian nationality were marked with D in the electoral rolls, to indicated doubtful or disputed status of their Indian nationality. During the survey, the absentee voters too were marked with D.[4] Around 370,000 persons were thus declared as D voters by the Election Commission of India.[6] The persons marked as D voters were barred from contesting the elections and casting their votes. The Election Commission of India further directed the D voters to be put on trial before the Foreigners Tribunals set up under the Foreigner (Tribunal) Order of 1964. Out of an estimated 370,000, only 199,631 cases were referred to the tribunals for verification. During the initial trials 3,686 persons were found to be foreigners, who names were removed from the electoral rolls.

12. Consider the following statements regarding PMI Purchasing Managers Index:

- 1) The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of the economic health of the manufacturing sector based on five major indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries and the employment environment.
- 2) The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current business conditions to company decision makers, analysts and purchasing managers.

3) Even though India's services PMI has been low over the years, the Manufacturing PMI has been high within a 6 month period.

Which of the above statements are true?

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 2 & 3 only
- C. 1 & 3 only
- D. all of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Purchasing Managers' Index

- PMI is an indicator of business activity — both in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before.
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

How is the PMI derived?

- The PMI is derived from a series of qualitative questions.
- Executives from a reasonably big sample, running into hundreds of firms, are asked whether key indicators such as output, new orders, business expectations and employment were stronger than the month before and are asked to rate them.

How does one read the PMI?

- A figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity. Anything below 50 denotes contraction.
- Higher the difference from this mid-point greater the expansion or contraction. The rate of expansion can also be judged by comparing the PMI with that of the previous month data.
- If the figure is higher than the previous month's then the economy is expanding at a faster rate. If it is lower than the previous month then it is growing at a lower rate.

13. With reference to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) 3rd Annual Leadership Summit, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.
2. The theme of this year is “US-India Navigating New Challenges”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit on the 3rd September 2020, through video conference.

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.

The Theme of the 5 day Summit that began on the 31st of August is “US-India Navigating New Challenges”.

The theme covers various subjects such as India’s potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub, Opportunities in India’s Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business to attract FDI in India, Common Opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space, Indo-Pacific Economic issues etc.

Hence both statements are correct.

14. With reference to the "Mission Karmayogi", consider the following statements:

1. It has been designed to lay the foundations for capacity building for Civil Servants.
2. The Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training-iGOT Karmayogi Platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved launching of "Mission Karmayogi"- National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). NPCSCB has been designed to lay the foundations for capacity building for Civil Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian Culture and sensibilities and remain connected, with their roots, while they learn from the best institutions and practices across the world. The Programme will be delivered by setting up an Integrated Government Online Training-iGOT Karmayogi Platform. To cover around 46 lakh Central employees, a sum of Rs.510.86 crore will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance to the tune of USD 50 million.

It comprises the following institutional framework:

A Public Human Resources Council comprising of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders and Public Service functionaries under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

It is also proposed to set up a Capacity Building Commission, with a view to ensure a uniform approach in managing and regulating the capacity building ecosystem on collaborative and co-sharing basis.

Special Purpose Vehicle for owning and operating the digital assets and the technological platform for online training,

Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary. **Hence both statements are correct.**

15. With reference to the Question Hour, consider the following statements:

1. Question Hour in Rajya Sabha is held only on alternative days of the session.
2. There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats notified that there will be no Question Hour during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which has been truncated to September 14-October 1 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, and that Zero Hour will be restricted in both Houses. Opposition MPs have criticised the move, saying they will lose the right to question the government.

It is during Question Hour that Members of Parliament ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries. The questions that MPs ask are designed to elicit information and trigger suitable action by ministries.

Prior to Independence, the first question asked of government was in 1893. It was on the burden cast on village shopkeepers who had to provide supplies to touring government officers.

Parliament has comprehensive rules for dealing with every aspect of Question Hour. And the presiding officers of the two houses are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.

Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made.

There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.

Question Hour is not scheduled either on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The government recently banned 118 more mobile applications, including the popular gaming app PUBG.
2. The decision to ban mobile apps taken under section 69A of the Information Technology Act and the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The government banned 118 more mobile applications, including the popular gaming app PUBG, that it said are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Among the other apps banned by the government are WeChat Work and WeChat Reading. The move comes amid fresh incursion bid by the Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control.

Earlier, the government had banned 59 popular Chinese apps including TikTok, CamScanner and UC Browser over security issues.

The decision to ban such Apps was taken by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology which invoked its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre of Home Ministry has also sent an exhaustive recommendation for blocking these malicious apps.

Hence both statements are correct.

17. With reference to the women in armed forces, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.
2. In 2006, the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES) was replaced with the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme, which was extended to women officers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Supreme Court declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service. The Supreme Court dismissed the Union government's submissions that women are physiologically weaker than men as a "sex stereotype." According to government, isolation and hardships would eat into their resolve and they would have to heed to the call of pregnancy, childbirth and family. Women ran the risk of capture by enemy and being taken prisoner of war. The Supreme Court ordered the government to implement its judgment in three months. The verdict came on a nearly 10-year-old appeal filed by the government against a 2010 decision of the Delhi High Court to grant SSC women officers permanent commission. The induction of women officers in the Army started in 1992. Recruits under the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES) had a shorter pre-commission training period than their male counterparts who were commissioned under the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme. In 2006, the WSES scheme was replaced with the SSC scheme, which was extended to women officers. They were commissioned for a period of 10 years, extendable up to 14 years.

Hence both statements are correct.

18. Which of the following statements is accurate for the PCR – polymerase chain reaction?

- A. Automated PCR machines are called thermal cyclers
- B. A thermostable DNA polymerase is required
- C. Millions to billions of desired DNA copies can be produced from microgram quantities of DNA
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a method widely used to rapidly make millions to billions of copies of a specific DNA sample, allowing scientists to take a very small sample of DNA and amplify it to a large enough amount to study in detail.

The majority of PCR methods rely on thermal cycling. Thermal cycling exposes reactants to repeated cycles of heating and cooling to permit different temperature-dependent reactions – specifically, DNA melting and enzyme-driven DNA replication. PCR employs two main reagents – primers (which are short single strand DNA fragments known as oligonucleotides that are a complementary sequence to the target DNA region) and a DNA polymerase.

19. Which of the following is the main function of the UN Security Council?

- A. Maintain World Heritage
- B. Maintain World Food
- C. Maintain World Award
- D. Maintain peace and security in the World

Answer: D

Explanation:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Composition:

UNSC is composed of 15 Members: five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

The UNSC can take decisions that are binding for all UN members and it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions. All decisions on all substantive matters require the affirmative votes of nine members.

Functions:

1. In cases where conflict is occurring, the Council may issue ceasefire directives, send in UN peacekeeping forces or use enforcement actions, such as sanctions.
2. To recommend to the parties that they reach agreement through peaceful means.
3. Appoint, or ask the UN Secretary General to appoint, special representatives to assist and guide efforts towards conflict resolution.

20. Which of the following statements regarding Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and the agreements between government and telecom companies stands true ?

- 1) As per TDSAT (Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal) definition, AGR includes all receipts except capital receipts and revenue from non-core sources such as rent, profit on the sale of fixed assets, dividend, interest and miscellaneous income.
- 2) The revenue shared by telcos with the government goes into the public account of India.

3) The telecommunication sector is already facing heavy taxes and levies in the range of 29% to 32%, which are globally the highest.

Options:

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 2 & 3 only
- C. 1 & 3 only
- D. all the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the Supreme Court of India allowed telecom companies (telcos) 10 years' time to pay their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues to the government.

Adjusted Gross Revenue

AGR is a fee-sharing mechanism between the government and the telcos who shifted to the 'revenue-sharing fee' model in 1999, from the 'fixed license fee' model.

In this course, telcos are supposed to share a percentage of AGR with the government.

Background:

The telecom sector was liberalised under the National Telecom Policy, 1994 after which licenses were issued to companies in return for a fixed license fee.

To provide relief from the steep fixed license fee, the government in 1999 gave an option to the licensees to migrate to the revenue sharing fee model.

Under this, mobile telephone operators were required to share a percentage of their AGR with the government as annual license fee (LF) and spectrum usage charges (SUC).

License agreements between the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the telecom companies define the gross revenues of the latter.

The definition of AGR has been under litigation for 14 years. In 2005, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) challenged the government's definition for AGR calculation.

However, DoT argued that AGR includes all revenues from both telecom and non-telecom services.

The companies claimed that AGR should comprise just the revenue accrued from core services and not dividend, interest income or profit on the sale of any investment or fixed assets.

In 2015, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) stayed the case in favour of telecom companies and held that AGR includes all receipts except capital receipts and revenue from non-core sources such as rent, profit on the sale of fixed assets, dividend, interest and miscellaneous income.

However, setting aside TDSAT's order, the Supreme Court upheld the definition of AGR as stipulated by the DoT in October 2019.

As per the government definition, AGR includes rental receipts, dividend income and income from any other-activity arising out of the telecom licence the company has.

Later on, the Court rejected a 20-year payment timeline proposed by the central government and supported by telecom companies. Instead it has given 10 years' time to repay the AGR dues.

Directions Issued by Court:

The telecom operators would make the payment of 10% of the total dues as demanded by the Department of Telecom by 31st March 2021.

The yearly instalments would commence from 1st April 2021 up to 31st March 2031. The instalments would be paid by 31st March every year.

In the event of any default in making payment of annual instalments, interest would be levied as per the agreement along with penalty and interest on penalty automatically without reference to court.

Besides, it would be punishable for contempt of court.

Compliance with the court order should be reported by the telcos and the telecom department every year on 7th April.

The sale of spectrum by telcos facing insolvency proceedings shall be decided by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Issues Involved:

The definition of AGR has been such a contentious issue because it has huge financial implications for both telcos and the government.

It was estimated, after the SC's 2019 judgment, that the telecom operators owe the government about Rs. 92,000 crore in back charges, interest and penalties on license fee alone.

The October 2019 judgment had pushed many telcos on the verge of bankruptcy.

While the government has been deprived of the extra revenue, the financial implications for telecom companies — who now have to pay overdue amounts piled up for years — are serious too.

Especially at the current juncture, when profits for telcos are under pressure from severe competition and the falling average revenue per user.

Way Forward

To enhance the growth of the telecom sector, improve the quality of service, and generate resources for the telcos, a new infrastructural policy is the need of the hour.

The government needs to provide an enabling environment for telecom operators. In order to achieve that, a long-term vision plan must be made accordingly.

Enhanced accessibility of the broadband services will enable the digital empowerment of India, hence adequate steps must be taken by the government to strengthen the overall telecom sector.

21. With reference to Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It provides an insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary health care.
2. It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
3. Primary Health Care (PHC) centers and sub centers are established under this programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) are established under this programme.

Enrich Your Learning:

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

Ayushman Bharat was launched to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017.

It is a comprehensive need-based health care service and has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

It aims to address health at primary, secondary and tertiary level. It comprises of two inter-related components, which are –

Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

Features of Ayushman Bharat

PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government. It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India. This can be used by one or all members of the family.

It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service i.e. at the hospital.

The Pre-existing diseases are covered from the very first day.

It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.

A beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital for cashless treatment.

22. With reference to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), consider the following statements:

1. It will be implemented by NITI Aayog.
2. Under NDHM every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was unveiled by PM Modi in his Independence Day address has now been rolled out on a pilot mode in six Union territories. The six Union Territories where the mission has been rolled out through a pilot launch are Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The mission will be implemented in all parts of the country after studying the initial results of the pilot launch. The National Health Authority (NHA), which is also the apex agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country. Under NDHM every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to medical services in the country. NDHM aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment with them, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for Preion sheets.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

23. With reference to the minimum age of marriage for women, consider the following statements:

1. Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively.
2. Recently Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force headed by Jaya Jaitely to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

PM Modi said that the central government has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women.

Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 years and 18 years for men and women respectively. Personal laws of various religions that deal with marriage have their own standards, often reflecting custom.

For Hindus, Section 5(iii) of The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.

In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.

On June 2, the Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a task force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and the improvement of nutritional levels among women.

Headed by former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitely, the committee includes Member Health at the NITI Aayog, Dr Vinod Paul, and several Secretaries to the Government of India.

Hence both statements are correct.

24. One of India's competitive advantages is its demographic dividend. Demographic dividend occurs when the proportion of working people in the total population is high because this indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to growth of the economy.

To obtain full benefits of demographic dividend what should our country do?

- A. Introducing social security schemes.
- B. Promoting skill development
- C. Reducing maternal mortality rate.
- D. Privatization of higher education.

Answer: B

Explanation: Self-explanatory.

25. Turkey is located between:

- A. Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- B. Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- C. Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
- D. Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea

Answer: B

Explanation:



26. PDS is associated with:

- A. fair price shops
- B. cooperative stores
- C. super bazars
- D. none of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Public distribution system is a government-sponsored chain of shops entrusted with the work of distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the needy sections of the society at very cheap prices.

27. Consider the following statements.

1. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International.
2. It was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
3. The forest region is home to world's largest population of Indian Rhinoceros.
4. It is also a Tiger Reserve.

The above statements are related to which National Park?

- A. Manas National Park
- B. Nameri National Park

- C. Orang National Park
- D. Kaziranga National Park

Answer: D

Explanation:

All of the above statements are related to Kaziranga National Park.

28. With reference to The State of Young Child in India' report, consider the following statements:

1. The report has been prepared by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.
2. Based on ranking and values on the Young Child Outcome Index (YCOI), the report named Kerala, Goa, Tripura and Tamil Nadu to be among the top performers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released 'The State of Young Child in India' report, a comprehensive account of the challenges related to early child development in India.

The report has been prepared by Mobile Creches a policy advocacy organisation which works with the underprivileged children across India.

Quoting from the report, the Vice President said that of the 159 million children aged below 6 years in India, 21 per cent are undernourished, 36 per cent are underweight and 38 per cent do not receive full immunization.

The report also pointed to the insurmountable evidence of the huge returns on investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) at the individual, household and country levels.

Based on ranking and values on the Young Child Outcome Index (YCOI), the report named Kerala, Goa, Tripura and Tamil Nadu to be among the top performers, while eight states--

Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar-- with scores below the national average lagged behind.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

29. With reference to the Priority Sector Lending guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. In the revised guidelines, higher weightage have been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in identified districts where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low.
2. Loan limits for renewable energy have been decreased under the revised guidelines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Reserve Bank of India has revised Priority Sector Lending guidelines to address regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.

In the revised guidelines, higher weightage have been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in identified districts where priority sector credit flow is comparatively low.

Bank finance to start-ups up to 50 crore rupees, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

The targets prescribed for “small and marginal farmers” and “weaker sections” are being increased in a phased manner.

Loan limits for renewable energy have been increased under the revised guidelines.

For improvement of health infrastructure, credit limit for health infrastructure (including those under ‘Ayushman Bharat’) has been doubled, the RBI said.

Priority sector loans refer to loans that banks need to mandatorily lend to economically weaker sections of the society.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

30. Whose birth anniversary is celebrated as the Teachers' Day in India?

A.Jawaharlal Nehru

B.Rajendra Prasad

C.Mahatma Gandhi

D.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Answer: D

Explanation:

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind greeted teachers across the country on the eve of Teachers' Day. We celebrate the Teachers' Day on the birth anniversary of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (5 September 1888 – 17 April 1975) was an Indian philosopher, academic, and statesman who served as the first Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the second President of India (1962–1967).

He served as the professor of philosophy at Mysore(1918-21) and Calcutta(1937-41) universities. He was the first Indian to hold a professorial chair at the University of Oxford.

His philosophy was grounded in Advaita Vedanta, reinterpreting this tradition for a contemporary understanding.

He was awarded several high awards during his life, including a knighthood in 1931, the Bharat Ratna in 1954, and honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963.

He was also one of the founders of HelpAge India, a non-profit organisation for elderly underprivileged in India.

Sarvepalli believed that "teachers should be the best minds in the country". Since 1962, his birthday has been celebrated in India as Teachers' Day on 5 September every year.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

31. With reference to the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states, consider the following statements:

1. Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015.
2. Kerala from South India topped the ranking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Union Minister of Finance announced the 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states.

Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015. Till date, State Rankings have been released for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017-18.

The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

The ranking this time gives full weightage to the feedback from over thirty thousand respondents at the ground level, who gave their opinion about the effectiveness of the reforms.

Andhra Pradesh retained its top position in ease of doing business ranking 2019, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. The commerce and industry ministry released the State Business Reform Action Plan Ranking on Saturday.

Uttar Pradesh from North India, Andhra Pradesh from South India, West Bengal from East India, Madhya Pradesh from West India and Assam from North East India topped the ranking. Among Union Territories, Delhi bagged the top spot.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

32. The 13th Amendment, recently seen in news, was an attempt to resolve which of the following country's ethnic conflict?

- A.Sri Lanka
- B.Uganda
- C.South Sudan
- D.Yemen

Answer: A

Explanation:

After the Rajapaksas' win in the November 2019 presidential polls and the August 2020 general election, the spotlight has fallen on the 13th Amendment (in Sri Lanka's Constitution) passed in 1987, which mandates a measure of power devolution to the provincial councils established to govern the island's nine provinces.

The 13th Amendment is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene.

It was an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict that had aggravated into a full-fledged civil war, between the armed forces and the LTTE, which led the struggle for Tamils' self-determination and sought a separate state. Till date, the 13th Amendment represents the only constitutional provision on the settlement of the long-pending Tamil question.

It led to the creation of Provincial Councils, assured a power sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, including Sinhala majority areas, to self-govern.

Subjects such as education, health, agriculture, housing, land and police are devolved to the provincial administrations, but because of restrictions on financial powers and overriding powers given to the President, the provincial administrations have not made much headway.

In particular, the provisions relating to police and land have never been implemented.

Initially, the north and eastern provinces were merged and had a North-Eastern Provincial Council, but the two were de-merged in 2007 following a Supreme Court verdict.

Many have openly called for the abolition of provincial councils after the new government took charge. They deem the councils "white elephants", and argue that in a small country the provinces could be effectively controlled by the Centre.

Neither President Gotabaya Rajapaksa nor Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has commented on the Amendment so far. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

33. With reference to Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

1. As per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states are guaranteed compensation for revenue loss on account of implementation of GST for a transition period of five years (2017-2022).
2. The compensation is calculated based on the difference between the current states' GST revenue and the protected revenue after estimating an annualised 14% growth rate from the base year of 2015-16.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Centre and the states are in a tussle over delayed compensation payments under the Goods and Services Tax (GST). As per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states are guaranteed compensation for revenue loss on account of implementation of GST for a transition period of five years (2017-2022). The compensation is calculated based on the difference between the current states' GST revenue and the protected revenue after estimating an annualised 14% growth rate from the base year of 2015-16. The high rate of 14%, which has got compounded since 2015-16, has been seen as delinked from economic realities. Compensation payments to states started getting delayed since October last year as GST revenues started to slow down. The Covid-19 pandemic has widened the gap, with GST revenues declining 41% in the April-June quarter.

Hence both statements are correct.

34. Which of the given statements are correct regarding The International Criminal Court?

1. It sits in The Hague, The Netherlands
2. The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes
3. It was created by the 'Rome Statute'

Select the Correct code:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

International Criminal Court (ICC) -It is an intergovernmental international tribunal for Criminal prosecution of individuals for four main crimes namely –

- Genocide,
- War crimes,
- Crimes against humanity and Crime of aggression.

It was established in 2002 by Rome statute. HQ is in Hague, Netherlands. The Court's official seat is in The Hague, Netherlands, but its proceedings may take place anywhere. It can exercise its jurisdiction only when national courts are unwilling or unable to investigate or prosecute such crimes. The Court can generally exercise jurisdiction only in three cases, viz.

- if the accused is a national of a state party,
- if the alleged crime took place on the territory of a state party or
- if a situation is referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council.

Judges: 18; Elected for 9-year term.

Members: 122 countries. Israel, United States, Russia, china and India are not its member.

United States and ICC: The United States has not signed up to the court and in 2002, its Congress passed a law enabling Washington to invade the Netherlands to liberate any U.S. citizen held by the court.

Relation with UN:

While not a United Nations organization, the Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations.

When a situation is not within the Court's jurisdiction, the United Nations Security Council can refer the situation to the ICC granting it jurisdiction.

35. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rohtang tunnel connect Kashmir valley with Leh, Ladakh, will be known as Atal Tunnel.
2. It is the 8.8 km-long tunnel and it will be the world's longest highway tunnel at an altitude of above 10,000 feet (3,000 metres).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Atal Tunnel Rohtang (also known as Rohtang Tunnel) is a highway tunnel built under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas on the Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh, India. At a length of 9.02 km, it is the longest tunnel above 10,000 feet (3,048 m) in the world and is named after former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

36. Consider the following statements:

- 1) The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran.
- 2) It links the Persian Gulf in the south, Gulf of Oman in the north and Arabian sea beyond.
- 3) Almost 1/5th of the global oil supplies passes through the strait per day.

Which of the above statements are true?

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 2 & 3 only
- C. 1 & 3 only
- D. all of the above

Answer: C

Explanation: The **Strait of Hormuz**, located between Oman and



Iran, **connects** the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea

37. Which of the following case is a landmark case in defining the concept of the basic structure doctrine?

- A. Golaknath case
- B. Shankari Prasad Case
- C. Kesavananda Bharati case
- D. Sajjan Singh case

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the passing away of Kesavananda Bharati Ji.

Kesavananda Bharati was the head seer of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala since 1961. He left his signature in one of the significant rulings of the Supreme Court when he challenged the Kerala land reforms legislation in 1970. The Kesavananda Bharati judgement, is a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of India that outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution. Justice Hans Raj Khanna asserted through the Basic Structure doctrine that the constitution possesses a basic structure of constitutional principles and values. The doctrine forms the basis of power of the Indian judiciary to review and override amendments to the Constitution of India enacted by the Indian parliament.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

38. With respect to “Rashtriya Poshan Maah”, consider the following statements:

1. The objective is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari, in order to create a Jan Andolan, for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.
2. Ministry of health and family welfare is the nodal agency in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated during the month of September 2020.

Every year the Poshan Maah is celebrated under POSHAN Abhiyaan (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment), which was launched in 2018.

Hence statement 2 is wrong: Ministry of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan, is celebrating the Poshan Maah in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.

Hence statement 1 is correct: The objective of the Poshan Maah is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari, in order to create a Jan Andolan, for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.

Identification of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) Children and their management and plantation of Poshan Vaatikas- Nutri gardens, will be undertaken as focus activities during Poshan Maah, along with awareness generation regarding importance of early breast feeding etc.

39. With reference to the Moplah or Malabar rebellion, consider the following statements:

1. It was started in 1910.
2. It was started as resistance against the British colonial rule, the prevailing feudal system, and in favour of the Khilafat Movement in South Malabar but ended in communal violence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

A report submitted to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in 2016 had recommended the removal of the Wagon Tragedy victims and Malabar Rebellion leaders Ali

Musliyar and Variamkunnath Ahmad Haji, and Haji's two brothers from a book on martyrs of India's freedom struggle.

The report sought the removal of names of 387 'Moplah rioters' from the list of martyrs.

The book, Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle 1857-1947, was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

The report describes Haji as the "notorious Moplah Riot leader" and a "hardcore criminal," who "killed innumerable innocent Hindu men, women, and children during the 1921 Moplah Riot, and deposited their bodies in a well, locally known as Thoovoor Kinar".

Haji was arrested by the army, tried by an army court and shot dead on January 20, 1922.

The Moplah or Malabar rebellion in 1921 started as resistance against the British colonial rule, the prevailing feudal system, and in favour of the Khilafat Movement in South Malabar but ended in communal violence.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

40. What is MT New Diamond, recently seen in news?

- A. A very large crude carrier
- B. New type of Diamond
- C. A malware
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

The fire that erupted on oil tanker MT New Diamond off Sri Lanka's south east coast was completely doused after joined efforts by a team of experts.

MT New Diamond is a very large crude carrier.

It is a Greek-owned vessel and under charter by Indian Oil Cooperation. The ship was built as Ikomasan by Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding in Chiba, Japan.

On 3 September 2020, the ship caught fire off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, resulting in the death of a Filipino crew member. On 6 September 2020, the fire was brought under control by the authorities after burning for nearly three days.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

41. With reference to the Foreign Contribution Regulations Act, consider the following statements:

1. It is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India.
2. The government has used the act over the years to freeze bank accounts of certain NGOs who it found were affecting India's national interest for wrong purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Of the six NGOs whose licence under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was suspended by the Union Home Ministry this year, four are Christian associations.

An FCRA licence is mandatory for a non-profit organisation to receive foreign funds.

At least two U.S.-based Christian donors are also under the Ministry's scanner for funding NGOs and groups here. The reasons for the suspension or violation was not specified.

As of now, there are 22,457 NGOs or associations registered under the FCRA, while the licences of 20,674 were cancelled and 6,702 are deemed to have expired.

The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act or FCRA is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India. The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.

The government has used the act over the years to freeze bank accounts of certain NGOs who it found were affecting India's national interest for wrong purposes.

Hence both statements are correct.

42. With reference to the Hypersonic Test Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV), consider the following statements:

1. The hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology was successfully demonstrated by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
2. It will lead to the development of hypersonic cruise missiles and vehicles in future.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for successful flight of the Hypersonic Test Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV).

The DRDO successfully flight tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

The HSTDV, which operates on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6, has been developed by the DRDO.

Need for speed

A few features of the hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle

- It attained a speed of Mach 6 or six times the speed of sound
- Reached altitude of 30 km where heat shields separated at hypersonic speed
- It uses a scramjet engine, in which air enters at supersonic speed and comes out at hypersonic speeds
- It will help in development of hypersonic cruise missiles
- Most missiles use the ramjet engine, which operates at supersonic speeds of up to Mach 3



Hence both statements are correct

43. Consider the following statements:

1. The duration of the monsoon decreases from southern India to northern India.
2. The amount of annual rainfall in the northern plains of India decreases from east to west.

Select the correct Answer:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The amount of rainfall decreases from east to west owing to the progressive decrease in humidity of the winds.

Southern part of India, being near to sea, gets rainfall early and for a longer duration than in northern part.

44. The KV Kamath committee(recently in news) is associated with which of the following sectors ?

- A. Defence procurement and export policy.
- B. Recommendation of sector-specific benchmark ranges to RBI.
- C. Medical devices price regulation in the country.
- D. Committee to bring in reforms in police actions

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee headed by K.V. Kamath on restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Key Points Objective: The Committee is tasked to recommend parameters for one-time restructuring of corporate loans. The Committee will formulate sector-specific resolution plans for all accounts with total loan exposure of Rs.1,500 crore and above. Background: In the recent Monetary Policy report, RBI has allowed banks to restructure loans to reduce the rising stress on incomes and balance sheets of large corporates, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as well as individuals. Reasons: A large number of firms that otherwise maintain a good track record are facing the challenge as their debt burden is becoming disproportionate, relative to their cash flow

generation abilities. ¶ This can potentially impact their long-term viability and pose significant financial stability risks if it becomes widespread. It may also lead to an increase in Non-Performing Assets. ¾ Eligibility: Only those borrowers will be eligible for restructuring whose accounts were classified as standard and not in default for more than 30 days with any lending institution as on 1st March, 2020. ¶ All other accounts will be considered for restructuring under the Prudential Framework issued by the RBI in 2019, or the relevant instructions as applicable to specific categories of lending institutions where the prudential framework is not applicable. ¶ The restructuring efforts may or may not include a moratorium on installment repayments. RBI has left the decision of moratorium on banks, with an eye on averting such loans from slipping into nonperforming assets.

45. Gross capital formation will increase if:

1. gross domestic savings increases
2. gross domestic consumption increases
3. GDP increases

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. None

Answer: D

Explanation:

Gross capital formation, in simple terms is equivalent to investment made. It was earlier called gross domestic investment. The part of GDP that is used is called gross domestic consumption, while the part that is saved is gross domestic savings (GDS). Some part of this GDS will be re-invested back, and that is called gross capital formation. Now, an increase in GDP or GDS will not necessarily lead to an increase in capital formation. Because how much is invested back will depend on many other factors.

46. Malkangiri district a maoist affected district is in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. West Bengal
- D. Telangana

Answer: A

Explanation:

Swabhiman Anchal area of Malkangiri district, Odisha is considered to be the hotbed for LWE activities,

47. Who releases the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. UNDP
- D. Asian Development Bank

Answer: C

Explanation:

Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries and was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for UNDP's Human Development Reports.

48. Consider the following statements:

1. International Literacy Day-2020 will focus on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies
2. This day was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966 at the 14th Session of UNESCO's General Conference.

Select the correct Answer:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Countries across the world are celebrating International Literacy Day on September 8, 2020.

International Literacy Day-2020 will focus on Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond with a focus on the role of educators and changing pedagogies.

This day was declared International Literacy Day by UNESCO on 26th October 1966 at the 14th Session of UNESCO's General Conference.

It was celebrated for the first time in 1967 and its main aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with at least 773 million adults worldwide lacking basic literacy skills today.

According to the UNESCO's 'Global Monitoring Report on Education for All' (2006), South Asia has the lowest regional adult literacy rate, at 58.6 per cent and the causes for this illiteracy range from severe poverty and the prejudice against women.

Hence both statements are correct.

49. The Government of India and which of the following financial signed a \$500 million loan, the first tranche of a total \$1 billion facility, to build a modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor?

- A.Asian Development Bank
- B.New Development Bank
- C.World Bank
- D.None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$500 million loan, the first tranche of a total \$1 billion facility, to build a modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor.

It will improve regional connectivity and mobility in India's national capital region (NCR).

The first tranche loan will support construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

50. Which of the following statements is/are correct according to NSO's Report on Digital Divide?

1. Cities have 42% Internet-enabled homes while in rural India 15% are connected to the internet.
2. Himachal Pradesh have highest internet penetration covering more than 70% households.
3. Delhi has highest Internet access covering 55% of the households.

Select the correct Answer:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. Only 3
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

All of the statements given above are correct.

51. Which of the following two regions from India are included as Biodiversity hotspots?

- A. Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats
- B. Western Himalayas and Western Ghats
- C. Northern Himalayas and Western Ghats
- D. Southern Himalayas and Western Ghats

Answer: A

Explanation:

A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity, that is under threat from humans. These areas have large numbers of endemic species those found nowhere else but many of these are heavily threatened by habitat loss and other human activities.

Around the world, 35 areas qualify as hotspots. In India, it hosts 3 biodiversity hotspots: the western ghats, the Himalayas and the Indo-Burma region. Western Ghats in India are under

threat due to continuous developmental activities and Doon valley is under threat due to continuous mining activities.

52. Which of the following diseases are covered for vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Program (UIP)?

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Whooping cough
- c) Tetanus
- d) Polio
- e) TB
- f) Measles
- g) Hepatitis B

Select the correct Answer:

- A. Only a,c,e,g
- B. Only b,d,f
- C. Only e,f,g
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is a vaccination program launched by the Government of India in 1985. It became a part of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme in 1992 and is currently one of the key areas under National Rural Health Mission since 2005. The program now consists of vaccination for 12 diseases- tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, hepatitis B, diarrhoea, Japanese encephalitis, rubella, pneumonia (haemophilus influenzae type B) and Pneumococcal diseases (pneumococcal pneumonia and meningitis). Hepatitis B and Pneumococcal diseases were added to the UIP in 2007 and 2017 respectively

53. The Patrika Gate has been inaugurated in which city by PM Narendra Modi recently?

- A. Agra
- B. Bhubaneswar
- C. Chennai
- D. Jaipur

Answer: D

Explanation:

In 2019, the Pink city, Jaipur (Rajasthan), was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Jaipur became the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition.

India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site.

The construction of Patrika Gate was in keeping with Jaipur having recently been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Patrika Gate has been constructed by the Rajasthan Patrika Group of Publications (media conglomerate).

It is an iconic gate built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority.

54. What is the global GDP growth forecast for the year 2020 as per Fitch Ratings' September update of Global Economic Outlook (GEO)

A) -3.2%

B) -4.4%

C) -5.3%

D) -4.9%

Answer: B

Explanation:

Global economy to contract 4.4%, China to grow at 2.7% in 2020: Fitch. Fitch Ratings on Tuesday projected global GDP to contract 4.4 per cent in the current year but revised upwards China's growth estimate to 2.7 per cent for 2020.

55. With reference to the reservation for Maratha community, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has recently stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra.

2. Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 33 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao referred the case to a larger bench to consider the constitutional validity of 2018 Maharashtra government law providing reservation to Marathas in the State.

Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 16 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.

The law was challenged before Bombay High Court which in June 2019 upheld its validity but reduced the quota to 12 per cent in educational institutions and 13 per cent in jobs.

Appeals were filed before Supreme Court stating that the reservation would lead to breach of the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Apex Court in its 1992 judgment of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India.

Maharashtra government had on August 26th asked the Court to place the matter before a larger bench considering the fact that it involves determination of substantial legal questions.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

56. With the boom of the bitcoin – a variety of cryptocurrency – the blockchain technology has come into prominence. What does this technology promise to do, even though it is still in its infancy?

A. Help facilitate secure, online transactions in a decentralized way

- B. Keep out malware
- C. Connect servers with common reasons for existence, remotely
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Blockchain is a decentralized distributed ledger technology. All network participants have access to the distributed ledger and its immutable record of transactions.

With this shared ledger, transactions are recorded only once, eliminating the duplication of effort that's typical of traditional business networks.

Blockchain is decentralized, i.e. it does not store any of its information in a central location, instead, the data is copied and spread across a network of computers.

57. With reference to the draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to achieve a turnover of Rs 1, 75, 000 Crores (US\$ 25Bn) including export of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
2. It aims to create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation and creates Indian IP ownership.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Ministry of Defence (MoD) released the draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020) for public feedback.

The DPEPP 2020 is envisaged as overarching guiding document of MoD to provide thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

The policy has laid out following goals and objectives:

To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25Bn) including export of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.

To develop a competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.

To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives.

To promote export of defence products.

To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation and creates Indian IP ownership.

The Policy brings out multiple strategies under the following focus areas:

Procurement Reforms

Indigenization & Support to MSMEs/Startups

Optimize Resource Allocation

Investment Promotion, FDI & Ease of Doing Business

Innovation and R&D

Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

Quality Assurance & Testing Infrastructure

Export Promotion

Hence both statements are correct

58. With reference to the PM SVANidhi, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
2. The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme - PM SVANidhi - PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi, for providing affordable loans to street vendors. The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year. On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on six monthly basis. There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan. The scheme provides for escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan to help the vendor achieve his ambition of going up on the economic ladder. Over 50 lakh people, including vendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwala, theliphadwala etc. in different areas/ contexts are likely to benefit from this scheme. This is for the first time in India's history that street vendors from peri- urban/ rural areas have become beneficiaries of an urban livelihood programme. It is for the first time that MFIs/ NBFCs/ SHG Banks have been allowed in a scheme for the urban poor due to their ground level presence.

Hence both statements are correct.

59. Consider the following statements:

1. India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.
2. The programme of cooperation between India and Israel for the years 2020-23 is based on the cultural agreement signed between them on May 18, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

India and Israel signed a cultural agreement that outlines a three-year programme of cooperation to further strengthen their strategic bilateral relations.

The programme of cooperation between the two countries for the years 2020-23 is based on the cultural agreement signed between them on May 18, 1993, a little more than a year after they established full-fledged diplomatic relations.

The major areas of cooperation identified to promote cultural ties include the exchange of culture and art experts, encouraging cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage and archaeology and organising literary fests and book fairs.

It also includes student exchanges through scholarships, encouraging the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals, devising youth exchange programmes and encouraging sports-related interaction among youth.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

60. Assertion (A): Insect resistant transgenic cotton has been produced by inserting Bt gene.

Reason (R): The Bt gene is derived from a bacterium.

Select the correct Answer:

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A
- C. A is true but R is false
- D. A is false but R is true

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bacillus thuringiensis is the bacterium which is used in Bt gene of cotton. Bt cotton is insect resistant.

So, the correct option is 'Both A and R are true but R is the correct explanation of A'.

61. With reference to the India and Japan defence relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Japan have signed an Agreement between the two countries concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.
2. This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

India and Japan have signed an Agreement between the two countries concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services.

The agreement will also enhance the interoperability between the Armed Force of India and Japan thereby further increasing the bilateral defence engagements under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.

Hence both statements are correct.

62. With reference to the Rafale Fighter Air craft, consider the following statements:

1. Rafale Fighter Air craft has been formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a formal function at Air Force Station, Ambala.
2. The state-of-the-art 4.5 Generation Rafale jet can reach almost double the speed of sound, with a top speed of 1.8 Mach.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Rafale Fighter Air craft has been formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a formal function at Air Force Station, Ambala.

The first five Rafale aircraft which arrived at Air Force Station, Ambala from France on 27th July 2020, would be part of 17 Squadron, the “Golden Arrows”.

The multirole and one of the most advanced flying machines, Rafale would be part of 17- Squadron, which is popularly known as the “Golden Arrows”, at the Ambala airbase.

The second batch of aircrafts is expected to arrive in India by the end of November this year.

The IAF would be acquiring a total of 36 Rafale jets from France and all the aircrafts are expected to be inducted into IAF by the end of 2021. Rafale aircrafts are India’s first major acquisition of fighter aircrafts for IAF after Sukhoi that were inducted around 23 years back.

The state-of-the-art 4.5 Generation Rafale jet can reach almost double the speed of sound, with a top speed of 1.8 Mach.

With its multi-role capabilities, including electronic warfare, air defence, ground support and in-depth strikes, the Rafale lends air superiority to the Indian Air Force.

The Rafale jets also come with SCALP, the air-to-ground cruise missile with a range over 300 km. It is a long-range deep strike missile.

Hence both statements are correct.

63. When the offices of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are vacant, who will appoint the person to perform the functions of the Speaker?

- A. The President
- B. The Chief Justice of India
- C. The Prime Minister
- D. The Council of Ministers

Answer: A

Explanation:

When the offices of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are vacant, the President appoints a member of the Lok Sabha as the Speaker Pro tem. Usually the seniormost member is selected for this. He has all the powers of the Speaker.

64. The aging of the population due to an increase in life expectancy combined with a decrease in the birth rate has been referred to as:

- A. the greying of the population
- B. secondary aging.
- C. later maturity.
- D. senescence.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Population ageing is an increasing median age in a population due to declining fertility rates and rising life expectancy. Most countries have rising life expectancy and an ageing population (trends that emerged first in developed countries, but which are now seen in virtually all developing countries).

65. With reference to deficit financing, monetized deficit is the part that is financed through:

- A. borrowings from public sector scheduled commercial banks
- B. external commercial borrowings
- C. borrowings from RBI
- D. none of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Monetized fiscal deficit= borrowing from RBI

It is that part of deficit financing which is supported by the RBI. This includes two things: 1) Borrowings from the RBI. 2) Decrease of government's balance in RBI (for the sake of simplicity just know that government maintains some balance with RBI).

66. The National Green tribunal (NGT) hears matters relating to

1. biodiversity
2. climate change
3. forests
4. water

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Section 14 of the NGT Act deals with the jurisdiction and powers of the Tribunal to settle disputes. It grants the Tribunal the jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to environment is involved. Such questions arise out of implementation of enactments specified in Schedule 1 of the Act. The seven enactments specified in Schedule 1 to the NGT Act are – The Water Act, The Water Cess Act, The Forest (Conservation) Act, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act) and The Environment Protection Act. It also lists The Public Liability Insurance Act and The Biological Diversity Act. Recently (March 2015), The Ministry of Environment & Forests has said the National Green Tribunal cannot settle the issue or any application on climate change as it is a subject of international conventions and protocols. “The issue of climate change is the subject of international conventions and protocols and does not lie in the ambit of Section 14 of the National Green Tribunal Act.”

67. Consider the following statement-

1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country.
2. It will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories.

Select the correct option-

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM Matsya Sampada Yojana in Bihar through video conferencing.

It is being launched in 21 States of the country with an investment of Rs 20,000 Crores which would be spent in the next 4-5 Years.

The scheme provides for new infrastructure, modern equipment and access to new markets to the fish producers, along with increased opportunities for through farming as well as other means.

This is the first time after independence, that such a major scheme has been launched in the country for the fisheries sector.

The goal is also to double fish exports in the coming 3-4 years. This will create millions of new employment opportunities only in the fisheries sector.

It also aims at enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25.

Hence both statements are correct.

68. Rajiv Mehrishi committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

A. reform the Drug Regulatory System

B. facilitate interaction, cooperation, and coordination amongst various public sector.

C. review levies, including spectrum usage charge (SUC), and promote ease of doing business

D. assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers

Answer: D

Explanation:

Government has constituted a three member expert committee to assist in the assessment of relief to bank borrowers. The committee will submit its report within one week.

The Expert Committee will have following as its members –

Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, former CAG of India - Chairperson

Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia, former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad & ex- Member, Monetary Policy Committee of Reserve Bank of India

Shri B. Sriram, Former Managing Director, State Bank of India & IDBI Bank

The terms of reference of the committee shall be as under:

Measuring the impact on the national economy and financial stability of waiving of interest and waiving of interest on interest on the COVID-19 related moratorium.

Suggestions to mitigate financial constraints of various sections of society in this respect and measures to be adopted in this regard.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

69. Five Star Villages, recently seen in news, is an initiative launched by:

- A. Department of Posts
- B. Department of Health
- C. Department of Science & Technology
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.

70. With reference to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution only in terms of monetary donation provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India.
2. The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In a first since 1984, the Union Home Ministry has granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, enabling it to receive foreign donations.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) granted registration to the Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Punjab. This association had applied for registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 on 27.05.2020. The registration shall remain valid for 5 years from the date of issue.

Before granting registration to Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Punjab, the application of this association was examined in accordance with the provisions laid down in FCRA, 2010 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules (FCRR), 2011.

Any association, non-government organisation (NGO) or registered society requires FCRA registration to receive foreign donations for specified purposes.

The association named Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, popularly known as Golden Temple based at Amritsar, Punjab was created in 1925 under the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 with objectives to offer free Langar to public/devotees round the clock, financial help to poor and needy etc.

The gurdwara is currently administered by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), controlled by the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), one of the oldest allies of the BJP.

The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act or FCRA is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India. The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

71. Consider the following statements:

1. The objective of Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0 is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
2. The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0, along with the ‘Streets for People Challenge’.

The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.

CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management.

The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

Streets for People Challenge:

The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.

The Challenge builds on the advisory issued by the Ministry for the holistic planning for pedestrian-friendly market spaces, earlier this year.

The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of streets for people in consultation with stakeholders and citizens.

Fit India Mission, under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, along with the India program of the Institute for Transport Development and Policy (ITDP) have partnered with the Smart Cities Mission to support the challenge.

Hence both statements are correct.

72. Living Planet Report 2020 is published by:

A.National Wildlife Federation

B. World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)

C. TRAFFIC

D. Wildlife Conservation Society

Answer: B

Explanation:

The WWF's Living Planet Report 2020 has found that there has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.

75 % of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted, and more than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during this period.

The most important direct driver of biodiversity loss in the last several decades has been land-use change, primarily the conversion of pristine habitats into agricultural systems, while much of the oceans have been overfished.

The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %, then in North America at 52.5 %, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %, Africa at 45.9 % and then Asia at 43 %.

The largest wildlife population loss, according to the Living Planet Index, has been in Latin America at an alarming 94 %.

One of the most threatened biodiversity globally has been freshwater biodiversity, which has been declining faster than that in oceans or forests.

Almost 90 % of global wetlands have been lost since 1700 and global mapping has recently revealed the extent to which humans have altered millions of kilometres of rivers.

India, a "megadiverse country" with over 45,000 species of plants in only 2.4 % of the world's land area, has already lost six plant species to extinction, according to the IUCN Red List.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

73. The recent Petroleum project 'Durgapur-Banka section' of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project is in which of the following state?

A. Uttar Pradesh

B. Bihar

C. Madhya Pradesh

D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B

Explanation:

Durgapur-Banka section is the extension of the existing 679-km long Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur LPG pipeline to the new LPG bottling plant at Banka in Bihar.

74. With reference to Singapore Convention on Mediation, consider the following statements:

1. It will provide a more effective way of enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes.
2. It is an United Nations convention.
3. India is yet to sign the convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Singapore Convention on Mediation will provide a more effective way of enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses in India and other signatories. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on 20th December 2018 and it was opened for signature on 7th August 2019 in Singapore.

The Singapore Convention on Mediation is a United Nations Convention and is also known as the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

India is a signatory of the convention. As on 1st September 2020, the Convention has 53 signatories, including China and the USA as well. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

75. With reference to the Indian Brain Templates, consider the following statements:

1. It is a representation of various brain images to understand its functionality.
2. It is developed by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

A Brain Template is a gross representation from various brain images to understand brain functionality in diseased conditions.

Indian Brain Template provides a scale that will measure an Indian brain. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is inspired from the Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template that is based on Caucasian brains, which are different from Asian brains.

Neuroscientists at NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) studied over 500 brain scans of Indian patients to develop five sets of Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

76. Which of the following relates to India-China border demarcation?

1. Macartney–MacDonald Line
2. Ardagh–Johnson Line
3. McMohan Line

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Macartney–MacDonald Line was a proposed boundary in the disputed area of Aksai Chin. It was proposed by British Indian Government to China in 1899 via its envoy to China, Sir Claude MacDonald.

This survey was officially sent by the British to China in 1899, was not followed up, and the border remained 'undefined'.

The Ardagh–Johnson Line was another proposed boundary between China and India in Jammu & Kashmir region. It was formally proposed to the British Indian government by Major General John Ardagh, chief of military intelligence in London, in 1897, based on the surveys conducted by William Johnson in 1865.

McMahon Line is the frontier between Tibet and British India in north east, negotiated between Tibet and Great Britain at the end of the Shimla Conference (October 1913–July 1914) and named for the chief British negotiator, Sir Henry McMahon.

77. Recently seen in news, e-Gopala App is:

A. a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers

B. an education app proposed in National Education Policy.

C. an app used for COVID–19 "contact tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment".

D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

PM Modi launched the e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.

E-Gopala app will be a digital medium which will help livestock owners to choose advanced livestock's.

This app will give all information related to productivity, health and diet to the cattle owners.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

78. K.N. Dikshit committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

- A. conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture
- B. review the regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework of Core Investment Companies (CIC)
- C. examine the existing state of mortgage securitization in India and Development of Housing Finance
- D. accelerate the GDP growth of the country

Answer: A

Explanation:

Union Minister of Culture informed Lok Sabha about an expert committee which has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture.

An expert committee has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture to since 12000 years before present and its interface with other cultures of the world.

The committee is chaired by K.N. Dikshit (Chairman of Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi and former Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

79. With reference to the Venus, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning a mission to Venus, tentatively called Shukrayaan, in the near future.
2. The temperature of Venus is too high, and its atmosphere is highly acidic, just two of the things that would make life impossible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

An announcement by an international team of astronomers about the discovery of phosphine gas in the atmosphere of Venus triggered global excitement about the possibility of the presence of lifeforms on the neighbouring planet.

In a paper published in Nature Astronomy, a team of scientists have reported traces of phosphine in a concentration of approximately 20 parts per billion, thousands to millions of times more than what could otherwise be expected.

Apart from being produced in industrial processes, phosphine, a colourless but smelly gas, is known to be made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.

This is the most credible evidence yet for the possibility of life away from Earth. Scientists say it is more significant, for example, than the discovery of water on the Moon or Mars.

The finding can further ignite interest in space missions to Venus. In fact, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is also planning a mission to Venus, tentatively called Shukrayaan, in the near future. As of now, the plan is still on the drawing board.

There are several things that make life unsustainable on that planet. The temperature of Venus is too high, and its atmosphere is highly acidic, just two of the things that would make life impossible.

But Scientists also suggest that this phosphine could be remnants from a time when Venus was a much more hospitable place.

Hence both statements are correct.

80. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Serathang – Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nathu La pass – Sikkim
3. Lipulekh Pass – Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

Option 1 is incorrectly matched. Sherathang is a town in Sikkim near the Nathula Pass in India. The location is the site for excise, customs and checking for trade between India and China. Rinqingang is the corresponding location in China.

Option 2 is correctly matched. Lipulekh is a Himalayan pass on the border between Uttarakhand state and the Tibet region of China, near their trijunction with Nepal.

Option 3 is correctly matched. Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

81. Which of the following is/are not covered by the definition of 'foreign source' under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010?

1. Government of any foreign country
2. International Monetary Fund
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security.

Some of the Foreign Sources, as defined in Section 2(1) (j) of FCRA, 2010 include:

- the Government of any foreign country or territory and any agency of such Government;
- any international agency, not being the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund or such other agency as the Central Government may notify;

Central Govt. has notified several international bodies to be not covered by the definition of 'foreign source'. The list among others includes Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Geneva.

-a trade union in any foreign country or territory;

-a foreign trust or a foreign foundation;

-a society, club or other association or individuals formed or registered outside India;

-a citizen of a foreign country.

82. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. Manufacturing sector has highest weightage in IIP calculation.

2. Base year for current IIP calculations is 2011-12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are released on 12th of every month (or previous working day if 12th is a holiday) with a six weeks lag and compiled with data received from source agencies, who in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments.

Statement 1 is correct. The weightage of Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity production in overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is 77.63 per cent, 14.37 per cent and 7.99 per cent respectively.

Statement 2 is correct. There have been nine revision of base year of all-India IIP since the beginning of its dissemination with first being 1937. Currently base year for IIP calculations is 2011-12.

83. Consider the following statements. Which among them is/are NOT true?

- I. Standing Committees are the permanent committees that are constituted on a regular basis
- II. Ad hoc committees are temporary committees that are dissolved when the task is completed
- III. Committee of Privileges is an ad-hoc committee
- IV. Joint Committee on Fertilizer pricing is a standing committee

Select the correct code:

- A. Only III and IV
- B. Only I and II
- C. Only I and III
- D. Only II and IV

Answer: A

Explanation:

84. With reference to Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

- 1. it provides for keeping aircraft belonging to the country's armed forces outside the purview of aircraft act 1934.
- 2. it provides statutory status to the DGCA, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security(BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau(AAIB).
- 3. it increases the fine for violations of rules from ₹.10 lakh rupees ₹.1 crore.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Key provisions of the Bill include:

Authorities: The Bill converts three existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies under the Act. These three authorities are: (i) the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), (ii) the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and (iii) the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB). Each of these bodies will be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.

The DGCA will carry out safety oversight and regulatory functions with respect to matters under the Bill. The BCAS will carry out regulatory oversight functions related to civil aviation security. The AAIB will carry out investigations related to aircraft accidents and incidents. The central government may issue directions to these authorities on matters related to their functions, if considered necessary in public interest.

Power of centre to make rules: Under the Act, the central government may make rules on several matters. These include: (i) registration of aircraft, (ii) regulating air transport services, and (iii) prohibition of flight over any specified area. The Bill adds the regulation of air navigation services to this list. It also allows the centre to empower the Director General of BCAS or any authorised officer to issue directions and make rules on certain matters. These matters include: (i) conditions under which an aircraft may be flown, (ii) inspection of aircrafts, and (iii) measures to safeguard civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference.

Adjudicating officers: The Bill provides for the appointment of designated officers, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to adjudicate penalties under the Bill. Persons aggrieved by an order of a designated officer may appeal to an appellate officer. Appeals must be filed by the aggrieved person within 30 days from the day the order is received.

Offences and Penalties: Under the Act, the penalty for various offences is imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh, or both. These offences include: (i) carrying arms, explosives, or other dangerous goods aboard aircraft, (ii) contravening any rules notified under the Act, and (iii) constructing building or structures within the specified radius around an aerodrome reference point. The Bill raises the maximum limit on fines for all these offences from Rs 10 lakh to one crore rupees.

85. Which of the following country was not the founding member of the SCO?

- A. China
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Uzbekistan
- D. Russia

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter, formally establishing the organisation, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. The original five nations, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996. Since then, the organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

86. With reference to the draft Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is proposed that tariff be determined by Commissions without taking into account the subsidy, which will be given directly by the government to the consumers.
2. A Central Enforcement Authority headed by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court is proposed to be set-up with powers of the Civil Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A**Explanation:**

Ministry of Power has released draft Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill 2020 to amend the Electricity Act, 2003 to introduce key Reforms in the Power Sector.

Major amendments proposed in the Electricity Act are as follows:

Direct Benefit Transfer: It is proposed that tariff be determined by Commissions without taking into account the subsidy, which will be given directly by the government to the consumers.

Establishment of Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority: A Central Enforcement Authority headed by a retired Judge of the High Court is proposed to be set-up with powers of the Civil

Court to enforce performance of contracts related to purchase or sale or transmission of power between a generating, distribution or transmission companies.

Establishment of adequate Payment Security Mechanism for scheduling of electricity: It is proposed to empower Load Dispatch Centres to oversee the establishment of adequate payment security mechanism before scheduling dispatch of electricity, as per contracts.

Strengthening of the Appellate Tribunal (APTEL): It proposes to increase the strength of APTEL to 7 apart from the Chairperson so that multiple benches can be set-up to facilitate quick disposal of cases. It is also proposed to further empower the APTEL to enforce its decisions.

National Renewable Energy Policy: It is proposed to provide for a policy document for the development of electricity from renewable sources of energy. A minimum percentage of purchase of electricity from hydro sources of energy is to be specified by the Commissions.

Cross border trade in Electricity: Provisions have been added to facilitate and develop trade in electricity with other countries.

Franchisees and Distribution sub licensees: Distribution Companies may engage Franchisees or Sub-Distribution Licensees to distribute electricity on its behalf in a particular area. However, it will be the DISCOM which shall be the licensee.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

87. Assertion (A): The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has the vision to build an inclusive society.

Reason (R): The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities. Code:

- A. (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B. (A) and (R) are correct but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C. (A) is correct and (R) is wrong.
- D. (A) is wrong and (R) is correct.

Answer: A

Explanation:

88. With reference to the Fiscal Deficit, consider the following statements:

1. It is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure.
2. In India, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act requires the central government to reduced its fiscal deficit to 5 per cent of GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

89. In which among the following states Bru/Reang tribe is located?

- A. Tripura
- B. Sikkim
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bru tribes

- Reang (known in Mizoram as Brus) are one of the 21 scheduled tribes of the Indian state of Tripura.
- The Bru can be found all over the Tripura state in India. However, they may also be found in Mizoram, Assam, Manipur and they speak the Reang dialect of Bru language which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin.
- The Bru are the second most populous tribe of Tripura after the Tripuris.
- The Reangs are primarily an agrarian tribe. In the past, they mostly practised the Huk or Jhum cultivation like most other Tripuri tribes. However today, most of them have adopted modern agricultural practices.

90. 'Abraham Accord', recently seen in news related to:

- A. UAE and Israel
- B. US and Iran

- C. Turkey and Israel
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Explanation: In a joint statement released by the US, Israel and the UAE, the leaders of the three countries agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and UAE.

The agreement that will be called the 'Abraham Accord' was brokered by US President Donald Trump.

91. What is 'Sputnik V', recently seen in news?

- A. First artificial Earth satellite
- B. Newly approved covid-19 vaccine by Russia
- C. A ransomware cryptoworm
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia had become the first country in the world to grant regulatory approval to a Covid-19 vaccine 'Sputnik V'. Russia named the newly approved vaccine "Sputnik V," in reference to Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite, launched in 1957 during the space race. Russia's vaccine candidate is an adenovirus-based viral vector vaccine which is combined with the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to induce an immune response in the body. The vaccine still has to complete final trials, raising concerns among some experts at the speed of its approval, but the Russian business conglomerate Sistema has said it expects to put it into mass production by the end of the year. A phase III or what we call final-stage study, usually involves tens of thousands of people, which is the only way to prove if an experimental vaccine is safe and really works. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

92. W.r.t the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act , consider the foll statements:

1. It was enacted in 2015.
2. The 2019 amendment gave the Home Ministry the power to designate individuals as terrorists.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Union Home Ministry designated nine more individuals as “terrorists” under the amended anti-terror law that was passed by Parliament last year. The nine persons declared terrorists are linked to separatist Khalistani groups that seek to establish a separate country for the Sikhs. The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) was enacted in 1967. The 2004 amendment was to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, were banned. The 2019 amendment gave the Home Ministry the power to designate individuals as terrorists. Earlier, in September 2019, the four individuals to be first designated as terrorists were JeM chief Masood Azhar, LeT’s Hafiz Saeed, his deputy Zakiur-Rehman Lakhvi, and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who planned and executed the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. The Opposition parties had raised concerns in Parliament that the 2019 amendment could be misused against political opponents and civil society activists. However Home Minister had said in Rajya Sabha that “it was important to identify terrorists and not just organisations”. The designations are also in alignment with laws in European Union (EU) countries, the U.S.A., China, Israel and even Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

93. Under ‘Import substitution’

1. Government protects the domestic industries from foreign competition.
2. Exports are discouraged since they reduce domestic consumption and thus production.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

94. Which of following statement is correct about the wetlands?

- A. Ramsar convention is related to wetland
- B. Wetland is area where water influences the environment, plant and animal.
- C. Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 in Iran
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

All of the above statements given above are correct.

95. Under whom recommendations the UN General Assembly suspends the UN membership?

- A. Judicial Body
- B. International Judicial Community
- C. Security Council
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

96. Consider the following statements with reference to the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA):

1. It set a framework through which the United States could share sensitive data to aid targeting and navigation with India.
2. It enables access to each other's military facilities for purposes of refueling and replenishment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

97. Recently seen in news, Rule 3(5) of the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 2001 is related to:

- A. State can confer powers upon 'any society' in a district to prevent cruelty against animals.
- B. State Government shall provide adequate land and other facilities to the Society for the purpose of constructing infirmaries and animal shelters.
- C. Every Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shall submit its annual report to the Animal Welfare Board of India incorporating therein the activities undertaken by it for the welfare of animals.
- D. No person shall slaughter any animal within a municipal area except in a slaughter house recognised or licensed by the concerned authority empowered under the law.

Answer: A

Explanation:

98. 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

Answer: A

Explanation:

99. 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

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.

100. With reference to 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)', consider the following statement:

1. BECA will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA for military use.
2. It is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between India and USA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is a Geo-Spatial cooperation that will allow India to use the geospatial maps of the USA to get the pinpoint military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets.

BECA is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between the two countries. The other three being GSOMIA, LEMOA, CISMOA. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Initially, India had reservations to geospatial mapping on the grounds of national security, but they were later addressed by mutual dialogue and discussion between the two countries.

101. Which of the following reports are published by the World Bank?

1. Global Economic Prospects
2. Ease of Doing Business
3. Global Risks Report
4. World Development Report
5. Human Capital Index

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI) report for 2020. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

India has been ranked at the 116th position in the HCI 2020.

Other Reports Published by World Bank:

Global Economic Prospects

Ease of Doing Business

World Development Report

The Global Risks Report is published annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Hence, option B is correct.

102. Consider the following statements regarding National Bamboo Mission:

- I. The NBM, a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture for harnessing the potential of the bamboo crop in the country, is under implementation in 27 states.
- II. It envisages promoting holistic growth of the bamboo sector by adopting an area-based, regionally differentiated strategy to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.
- III. Under the Mission, steps have been taken to increase the availability of quality planting material by supporting the setting up of new nurseries/tissue culture units and strengthening existing ones.

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

- A. Only I
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

103. With reference to the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is allowed.
2. Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

The new legislation will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation.

It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers.

This legislation will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to national and global markets, and in agricultural infrastructure.

Farmers will get access to technology and advice for high value agriculture and get ready market for such produce. Farmers will engage in direct marketing thereby eliminating intermediaries resulting in full realization of price.

Farmers have been provided adequate protection. Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is totally prohibited and farmers' land is also protected against any recovery.

Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

104. With reference to the Tata CRISPR test, consider the following statements:

1. India's first CRISPR Covid-19 test, developed by the Tata Group and CSIR-IGIB, has been approved for use in India.

2. CRISPR is a genome editing technology for diagnosing diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

India's first CRISPR Covid-19 test, developed by the Tata Group and CSIR-IGIB, has been approved for use in India.

The Tata CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) test, powered by CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) FELUDA, received regulatory approvals today from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial launch.

This test uses an indigenously developed, cutting-edge CRISPR technology for detection of the genomic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

CRISPR is a genome editing technology for diagnosing diseases. The Tata CRISPR test is the world's first diagnostic test to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19.

The Tata CRISPR test achieves accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time, less expensive equipment, and better ease of use.

The Tata Group has worked closely with CSIR-IGIB and ICMR to create a high-quality test that.

Hence both statements are correct.

105. Consider the following statements:

1. The basin of the Indus river system is shared only by India and Pakistan.
2. The Indus Water Treaty allows India to use upto 20% water of eastern rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Indus system comprises the main Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a small share for China and Afghanistan. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

As per the Indus Water Treaty, 1960 all the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej and Beas (Eastern Rivers) were allocated to India for exclusive use. While, the waters of Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

106. With reference to the protection status of Sloth Bear, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as endangered under the IUCN Red List.
2. It is protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Sloth Bears are also called honey bear and bhalu, it is a forest-dwelling member of the family Ursidae (comprises 8 species of bears) that inhabits tropical or subtropical regions of India and Sri Lanka.

Protection Status:

‘Vulnerable’ in the IUCN Red List. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Appendix I in CITES listing.

Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

107. Which of the following are not sessions of the Lok Sabha?

- A. Budget Session
- B. Monsoon Session
- C. Summer Session
- D. Winter Session

Answer: C

Explanation:

The period during which the House meets to conduct its business is called a session.

The Constitution empowers the President to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a six-month gap between the two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year. In India, the Parliament conducts three sessions each year:^[15]

- *Budget session:* January/February to May
- *Monsoon session:* July to August/September
- *Winter session:* November to December

108. With reference to the Feluda, consider the following statements:

1. It is a low-cost, paper-strip test which can detect the new coronavirus within an hour.
2. It was developed by DRDO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Scientists at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research — Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have developed a low-cost, paper-strip test which can detect the new coronavirus within an hour.

- The test, named Feluda after a fictional detective character created by Satyajit Ray, is expected to cost around Rs 500 against the RT-PCR test that costs Rs 4,500 in private labs.
- The test is based on a bacterial immune system protein called Cas9. It uses cutting-edge gene-editing tool Crispr-Cas9 system. The team has repurposed it for diagnosis of COVID-19 genetic material.
- This technology is not limited to COVID-19 and can work on any DNA-RNA or single mutations, disease mutations etc.

109. With reference to the International Day of Peace, consider the following statements:

1. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.
2. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly.

Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.”

Hence both statements are correct.

110. With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The proposed amendments seek to allow public servants from receiving foreign funding.
2. The amendments seek to make Aadhar mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha.

The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year.

The proposed amendments seek to bar public servants from receiving foreign funding.

The amendments seek to make Aadhar mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.

There are some NGOs which do not inform the government about the foreign contributions they receive. Some NGOs have been found to be violating norms by deviating from their objectives.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

111. With reference to the parliamentary committees, consider the following statements:

1. There are 14 departmentally related Standing Committees.
2. Both Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPC) and Select Committee are chaired by MPs from the ruling party.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The government pushed through two crucial agriculture Bills in Rajya Sabha, rejecting Opposition demands that they be referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.

Parliament scrutinises legislative proposals (Bills) in two ways. The first is by discussing it on the floor of the two Houses.

The second mechanism is by referring a Bill to a parliamentary committee. But referring of Bills to parliamentary committees is not mandatory.

India's Parliament has multiple types of committees. They can be differentiated on the basis of their work, their membership and the length of their tenure.

First are committees that examine bills, budgets and policies of ministries. These are called departmentally related Standing Committees.

There are 24 such committees.

Departmentally related Standing Committees have a tenure of one year, then they are reconstituted and their work continues throughout the term of a Lok Sabha.

Then there are committees constituted for a specific purpose, with MPs from both Houses. The specific purpose could be detailed scrutiny of a subject matter or a Bill. These are Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPC).

And finally, there is a Select Committee on a Bill. This is formed for examining a particular Bill and its membership is limited to MPs from one House.

Since both the JPCs and Select Committees are constituted for a specific purpose, they are disbanded after their report. Both these types of committees are chaired by MPs from the ruling party.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

112. With reference to INS Viraat, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Aircraft Carrier with the longest service in the world.
2. INS Viraat proved pivotal in Operation Jupiter in 1989 during the Sri Lankan Peacekeeping operation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

INS Viraat, the Aircraft Carrier with the longest service in the world, commenced its towed final journey from Mumbai, to be broken at Alang in Gujarat and sold as scrap.

The ship was commissioned into the Royal Navy as HMS (Her Majesty's Ship) Hermes in 1959.

She was part of the key formation of the British forces during the Falklands War against the Argentinian forces in 1982. HMS Hermes was decommissioned within three years after the war.

The Indian Navy announced its purchase in 1985-86. The ship underwent a major refit and modernisation before being commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987 as INS (Indian Naval Ship) Viraat, which means enormous.

INS Viraat proved pivotal in Operation Jupiter in 1989 during the Sri Lankan Peacekeeping operation.

The ship was also deployed during 2001-02 Operation Parakram following the terror attack on the Indian Parliament. It was decommissioned in 2017.

Since 2017, India has been operating a single carrier — INS Vikramaditya — as against the minimum essential operational requirement of having two Carrier Battle Groups — which are formations of ships and submarines with Aircraft Carriers at the lead role.

India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) INS Vikrant which has a displacement comparable to Vikramaditya is under construction at Kochi Shipyard and is soon expected to undergo sea trials.

Hence both statements are correct.

113. Regarding Indian Parliamentary system, consider the following statements:

1. No confidence motion can be moved in both the houses.
2. Unlike resolution, a motion can be moved only with the approval of the presiding officer of house.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

A no-confidence motion, or vote of no-confidence, or a no-trust vote, can be sought by Lok sabha to express that they no longer have confidence in the government.

A no-confidence motion can only be moved in the lower house (Lok sabha). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Recently the no confidence resolution was moved for the removal of the Deputy Chairman. It is not the same as the No Confidence Motion specified in Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha, which can lead to the resignation of the Council of Ministers.

Article 75 of the Constitution specifies that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of People.

Unlike resolution, a motion can be moved only with the approval of the presiding officer – Speaker in Lok Sabha or Chairman in Rajya Sabha.

A resolution can be moved by a member or Minister on a matter of general public interest. While there is no fixed day allotted for moving a resolution by a Minister, a private member can move a resolution only on an allotted day. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

114. Which of following institutions are the constituent bodies of World Bank Group:

1. The Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
2. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
3. International Monetary Fund
4. International Development Association (IDA)
5. International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 4 and 5
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: C

Explanation:

World Bank Group

With 189 member countries, the World Bank Group is a unique global partnership which consists of five development institutions.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides loans, credits, and grants. International Development Association (IDA) provides low- or no-interest loans to low-income countries.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) provides investment, advice, and asset management to companies and governments.

The Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA) insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.

The International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) settles investment-disputes between investors and countries. India is not a member of ICSID. Hence, option C is correct.

115. With reference to the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), consider the following statements:

1. The MSP of six Rabi crops including Wheat, Chana, Masoor, Mustard, Jowar and Safflower has been hiked in the range of 50 to 300 rupees.
2. The hike is in consonance with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission's report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Government has announced increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi crops. The decision was taken in the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs held under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The MSP of six Rabi crops including Wheat, Chana, Masoor, Mustard, Jowar and Safflower has been hiked in the range of 50 to 300 rupees.

The MSP of wheat has been increased by 50 rupees and now stands at one thousand 975 rupees per quintal whereas the MSP for Masoor has been hiked by 300 rupees. MSP for Mustard and

Chana has been increased by 225 rupees. Increase in Jowar's MSP is by 75 rupees while for Safflower the hike is by 112 rupees per quintal.

The hike is in consonance with the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission's report reflects the current government's commitment towards Minimum Support Price and procurement of agri products in the country.

Hence both statements are correct.

116. Which of the following is/are the recommendation(s) made by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Expert Committee report on international retail business development in the IFSC?

1. Becoming a gateway to India growth story for international investors and business
2. Providing Indian diaspora and individuals from Asia and Africa with a comprehensive range of financial services from the IFSC.
3. Serving domestic residents availing liberalized remittance scheme.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Expert Committee on international retail business development in the IFSC has submitted its interim report to the Chairperson of the IFSCA.

The Expert Committee has been constituted by the IFSCA with an aim to suggest how to develop international retail business in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

The committee suggests that the IFSC can aim at:

Becoming a gateway to India growth story for international investors and business

Providing Indian diaspora and individuals from Asia and Africa with a comprehensive range of financial services from the IFSC.

Serving domestic residents availing liberalized remittance scheme.

The Government of India had constituted the IFSCA with Shri I Srinivas as its Chairperson earlier this year to develop and regulate the financial services market in the IFSC in India.

Apart from channelizing India's offshore business to the IFSC located at GIFT City and making it the gateway for India centric international financial services, the objective is to make it a global hub for international financial services on the lines of London, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Dubai.

Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City located on the banks of the Sabarmati River is India's first operational smart city and international financial services centre. It was promoted by the Government of Gujarat as a greenfield project.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

117. With reference to the suspension of MPs, consider the following statements:

1. According to Rule 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business the Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House for the remainder of the day's sitting.
2. Rule 374A is invoked by Speaker for automatic suspension of member of the House – for ten **consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Eight Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended for unruly behaviour in the House. The suspension of the eight members comes a day after the Upper House witnessed massive unruly scenes by protesting Opposition members during the passage of two farm Bills.

Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says: “The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House for the remainder of the day’s sitting.”

Rule 374 says:

The Speaker may name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof.

If a Member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the Member be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.

Rule 374A: It is invoked by Speaker for automatic suspension of member of the House – for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less in the event of grave disorder occasioned by a Member (coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise).

Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to “direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House for remainder of the day.

Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

118. Which of the following are Rabi crops?

1. Wheat
2. Barley
3. Gram
4. Mustard

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

D.1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has marginally increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of six rabi crops for 2021-22.

Rabi crops are agricultural crops that are sown in winter and harvested in the spring in India. Eg. wheat, barley, mustard etc.

MSP rates were hiked for Rabi crops such as wheat, barley, gram, masoor dal (lentil), safflower, and rapeseed and mustard. Hence, option D is correct.

119. Kulhudhuffushi port, recently seen in news, is located in:

A.Maldives

B.Singapore

C.Iran

D.Pakistan

Answer: A

Explanation:

Shipping Minister of India Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Maldives jointly e- launched a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives.

During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of break bulk cargo sailed from Tuticorin to Kochi on September 21, 2020, from where it will proceed to Kulhudhuffushi port in North Maldives and then to Male port.

This ferry service being operated by the Shipping Corporation of India will run twice a month and will provide a cost effective direct and alternate means of transportation of goods between India and Maldives.

This direct cargo service will further cement the close ties between India and Maldives by enhancing people-to-people contact and boosting bilateral trade.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

120. With reference to the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat.
2. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it. The Lok Sabha has already approved the Bill.

The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat.

The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

This university will work for the capacity building in the field of forensic science and promote research.

Criminal justice plays an important role in the justice delivery system, hence, the establishment of this University will promote research in the field of forensic science.

Hence both statements are correct.

121. With reference to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the PPP mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance.

2. The Bill seeks amendment to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-private Partnership) Act, 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in New Delhi today. It has been already passed by Lok Sabha.

The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the PPP mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance.

Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. On being declared institutions of national importance, the five institutes will be granted the power to grant degrees.

The Bill seeks amendment to the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-private Partnership) Act, 2017.

The central government will contribute fifty percent towards the expenses of institutes functioning under the PPP mode. 35 per cent will be borne by the states and fifteen per cent by the industries.

As a special impetus to north eastern states, central government will bear over fifty seven per cent of the expenses whereas industries will contribute around seven percent to the Institutes there.

Hence both statements are correct.

122. With reference to the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat (established under the Raksha Shakti University Act, 2009) as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat.

2. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

Parliament has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020. The Rajya Sabha cleared this Bill on September 22, while the Lok Sabha had passed it earlier.

The Bill establishes the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat (established under the Raksha Shakti University Act, 2009) as a University called the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat.

The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance. The Bill also repeals the 2009 Act.

The Bill provides for several authorities under the University. These include: (i) the Governing Body, to frame the broad policies and programmes of the University, (ii) the Executive Council, which will be the principal executive body, and (iii) the Academic Council, which will specify the academic policies of the University.

The functions of the University include: (i) providing instructions and research in police sciences, including coastal policing and cyber security, (ii) establishing and maintaining colleges, and (iii) prescribing courses, holding exams, and granting degrees and other distinctions.

Hence both statements are correct.

123. Which of the following are the provisions included in Industrial Relations Code, 2020?

1. Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal.

2. Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award.

3. Provision for RE-Skilling fund has been made in the law for the first time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A.1 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

Efforts made by the Government under the code for quickly resolving disputes of the workers are:

Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal. In case of absence of one member, work can still be undertaken smoothly.

Provision for taking the matter straight to the Tribunal in case the dispute is not resolved at conciliation stage. At present, the case is referred to the Tribunal by the appropriate Government.

Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award.

After recognition of Fixed Term Employment, workers will get the option of Fixed Term Employment instead of contract labour. Under this, they would get benefits of hours of work, salary, social security and other welfare benefits like a Regular Employee.

With the objective of better and effective participation of Trade Unions, a provision for “Negotiating Union” and “Negotiating Council” has been made for undertaking negotiation on any dispute.

Provision has been made for giving recognition to Trade Unions at Central and State level. This recognition has been given in the labour laws for the first time and after this recognition, Trade Unions would be able to contribute more affirmatively and more effectively at the Central and State level.

Provision for RE-Skilling fund has been made in the law for the first time. Its aim would be to re-skill those workers who have been fired from their jobs, so that they are easily able to get employment again.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

124. With reference to the Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Free health check-up thrice a year by the employer for workers which are more than a certain age.

2. Legal right for getting Appointment Letter given to workers for the first time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020.

Free health check-up once a year by the employer for workers which are more than a certain age.

Legal right for getting Appointment Letter given to workers for the first time.

Cine Workers have been designated as Audio Visual Worker, so that more and more workers get covered under the OSH code. Earlier, this security was being given to artists working in films only.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

125. With reference to the Social Security Code, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The facility of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) would now be provided in all 740 districts.

2. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) coverage would be applicable on all establishments having 10 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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Social Security Code, 2020.

Extending the reach of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC): Effort have been made to provide right to health security under ESIC to maximum possible workers:-

The facility of ESIC would now be provided in all 740 districts. At present, this facility is being given in 566 districts only.

Establishments working in hazardous sectors would mandatorily be linked with ESIC, even if there is only one worker working in it.

Provision for making scheme for linking unorganised sector and Gig workers with ESIC.

Option to link workers working in Plantations is being given to Plantation owners.

Option for becoming member of ESIC is also being given to establishments with less than 10 workers.

Extending the reach of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

EPFO's coverage would be applicable on all establishments having 20 workers. At present, it was applicable only on establishments included in the Schedule.

Option to join EPFO is also being given to establishments having less than 20 workers.

Schemes would be formulated for bringing workers coming under the category of 'Self-employed' or falling under any other category under the aegis of EPFO.

Provision has been made to formulate various schemes for providing comprehensive social security to workers in unorganised sector. A "Social Security Fund" will be created on the financial side in order to implement these schemes.

Work to bring newer forms of employment created with the changing technology like "platform worker or gig worker" into the ambit of social security has been done in the Social Security Code.

Provision for Gratuity has been made for Fixed Term Employee and there would not be any condition for minimum service period for this.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

126. With reference to the Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), consider the following statements:

1. The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.
2. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from gun of MBT Arjun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test fired from MBT Arjun Tank at KK Ranges, Ahmednagar on 22nd Sep 2020.

In these tests, the ATGM successfully defeated a target located at 3 km. Laser guided ATGMs lock and track the targets with the help of laser designation to ensure precision hit accuracy.

The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from gun of MBT Arjun.

Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune, and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) Dehradun have developed the missile.

Hence both statements are correct.

127. With reference to the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The bill provides a legal framework for bilateral netting of qualified financial contracts.
2. The provisions of the bill will apply to Qualified Financial Contracts between two qualified financial market participants where at least one party is an entity regulated by the specified authorities RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA or the IFSCA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

Parliament has passed the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it.

The bill provides a legal framework for bilateral netting of qualified financial contracts.

Netting refers to offsetting of all claims arising from dealings between two parties to determine a net amount payable or receivable from one party to another.

The bill allows for enforcement of netting for qualified financial contracts.

The provisions of the bill will apply to Qualified Financial Contracts between two qualified financial market participants where at least one party is an entity regulated by the specified authorities RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA or the IFSCA.

The bill is critical for financial stability in the country and will provide legal basis for bilateral netting between two parties. This bill will also ensure liquidity in the market.

Hence both statements are correct.

128. Consider the following statements:

1. Cess is a permanent source of revenue for the government.
2. The proceeds of a cess are not shared with the state 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

Answer: D

Explanation:

A cess is a form of tax levied by the government on tax with specific purposes till the time the government gets enough money for that purpose. For example, the Swachh Bharat cess is levied by the government for cleanliness activities that it is undertaking across India.

Cess is a form of tax levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.

Cess is resorted to only when there is a need to meet the particular expenditure for public welfare.

Cess is not a permanent source of revenue for the government, and it is discontinued when the purpose of levying it is fulfilled. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It can be levied on both indirect and direct taxes.

Cesses and levies collected are required to be first transferred to designated Reserve Funds and utilised for the specific purposes intended by Parliament.

Funds collected through Central taxes along with cesses and other levies go to the CFI.

Taxes and surcharges in CFI are parked in a divisible pool and 42% of the total is given to States as devolution

Another major difference between central taxes and cess is that the proceeds of a cess may or may not be shared with the state governments, while that of taxes have to be shared. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

129. With reference to World Risk Index 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It assesses the vulnerability of the external debt of a country.
2. It is released by the World Economic Forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

The World Risk Index is calculated on a country-by-country basis, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability and describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It indicates which countries are in the greatest need to strengthen measures for coping with and adapting to extreme natural events.

According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India is 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it is vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

It is part of the World Risk Report 2020 released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the University of Stuttgart in Germany. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

130. JIMEX 2020 is a maritime bilateral exercise between India and which of the following country?

A.Japan

B.Jamaica

C.Jordon

D.Indonesia

Answer: A

Explanation:

The 4th edition of India - Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX, which is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) will be held in North Arabian Sea from 26 to 28 September 2020.

JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.

The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.

JIMEX 20 will further enhance the cooperation and mutual confidence between the two navies and fortify the long standing bond of friendship between the two countries.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

131. With reference to the National Medical Commission (NMC), consider the following statements:

1. Along with NMC, the four Autonomous Boards of UG and PG Medical Education Boards, Medical Assessment and Rating Board, and Ethics and Medical Registration Board have also been constituted to help the NMC in day to day functioning.
2. Besides the Chairperson, NMC will have 10 ex-officio members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Historic reform in the field of medical education has been effected by the Union Government with the constitution of the National Medical Commission (NMC), along with four Autonomous Boards.

With this, the decades old institution of the Medical Council of India (MCI) stands abolished.

Along with NMC, the four Autonomous Boards of UG and PG Medical Education Boards, Medical Assessment and Rating Board, and Ethics and Medical Registration Board have also been constituted to help the NMC in day to day functioning.

The basic change that has happened is that the Regulator is now 'selected' on merits, as opposed to an 'elected' Regulator.

The Notifications in this regard were issued late last night on the 24th September, 2020.

Dr S C Sharma (retired Prof, ENT, AIIMS, Delhi) has been selected as the Chairperson for a period of three years. Besides the Chairperson, NMC will have 10 ex-officio members.

It may be recalled that the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament in August, 2019.

With the coming into effect of the NMC Act from 25th September, 2020, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 stands repealed and the Board of Governors appointed in supersession of Medical Council of India has also been dissolved with effect from the said date.

Hence both statements are correct.

132. India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will run between:

A. Delhi to Meerut

B. Mumbai to Ahmedabad

C. Delhi to Chandigarh

D. Chennai to Bengaluru

Answer: A

Explanation:

Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA and Chairman, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), unveiled the first look of India's first RRTS train.

The state-of-the-art RRTS rolling stock will be first of its kind in India with a design speed of 180 kmph. With radiating stainless steel outer body, these aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight and fully air-conditioned.

The prototype is scheduled to roll off the production line in 2022 and will be put into public use after extensive trials.

The 82 km long Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut Corridor is the first RRTS corridor being implemented in India. The corridor will bring down the travel time between Delhi to Meerut by around 1/3rd.

The other two Phase-I RRTS corridors are Delhi-Gurugram-SNB and Delhi-Panipat.

NCRTC is a joint venture of the Government of India (50%) and State Governments of Haryana (12.5%), NCT Delhi (12.5%), Uttar Pradesh (12.5%) and Rajasthan (12.5%).

It is mandated to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain RRTS in NCR and works under the administrative control of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GOI.

NCRTC is mandated to implement India's first RRTS in NCR.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

133. Which of the following are identified as the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)?

1. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

2. General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)

3. The New India Assurance Co.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A.1 only

B.1 and 2 only

C.2 and 3 only

D.1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and The New India Assurance Co. as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21.

Given the nature of operations and their systemic importance, the regulator has asked the three public sector insurers to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

As D-SIIs, they will also be subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision, IRDAI said in a statement.

D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

Their continued functioning is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy.

D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are too big or too important to fail. Such a perception and the expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions and increase the possibility of distress in future.

Size in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management are among the parameters on which the insurers are identified. IRDAI said it will list D-SIIs on an annual basis.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

134. With reference to Permanent Court of Arbitration, consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent non-governmental dispute resolution organization located at Hague.
2. It is an allied body of the United Nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A.1 only
- B.2 only
- C.Both 1 and 2
- D.Neither 1 and 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to serve the international community in the field of dispute resolution and to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between States. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The headquarters of PCA is located at The Hague, Netherlands.

It was established by the First International Peace Conference held at The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1899. It is independent of the United Nations. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

135. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. It is mandated to recommend the minimum support prices (MSPs) to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is not any statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It came into existence in January 1965.

Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) for government procurement to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

136. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.

Consider the following statements regarding the Social Security Code 2020:

1. The Central Government will establish a Social Security Fund for welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.
2. A National Social Security Board for unorganised workers to be constituted under chairmanship of Union Minister for Labour and Employment.

Which of the testaments given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The Social Security Code 2020 states that the central government will set up a Social Security Fund for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Further, state governments will also set up and administer separate social security funds for unorganised workers. The 2020 Bill also makes provisions for registration of all three categories of workers – unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Statement 2 is correct. The code states that the Central Government shall, by notification, constitute a National Social Security Board for unorganised workers under chairmanship of the Union Minister for Labour and Employment.

The National Social Security Board shall perform the following functions:

-recommend to the Central Government for formulating suitable schemes for different sections of unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers;

-advise the Central Government on such matters arising out of the administration of this Code as may be referred to it;

-monitor such social welfare schemes for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers as are administered by the Central Government;

-review the record keeping functions performed at the State level;

-review the expenditure from the fund and account.

137. With reference to the Sandalwood Spike Disease, consider the following statements:

1. Sandalwood is classified as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1998.

2. The disease was first reported in Kodagu in 1899.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1 and 2

D.Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

India’s sandalwood trees, the country’s pride — particularly of Karnataka — are facing a serious threat with the return of the destructive Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD).

The infection has resurfaced in the aromatic tree’s natural habitats in Karnataka and Kerala.

The natural population of sandalwood in Marayoor of Kerala and various reserve forests in Karnataka, including MM Hills, are heavily infected with SSD for which there is no cure as of now.

Presently, there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease, caused by phytoplasma — bacterial parasites of plant tissues — which are transmitted by insect vectors.

With between 1 and 5% of sandalwood trees lost every year due to the disease, scientists warn that it could wipe out the entire natural population if measures are not taken to prevent its spread.

SSD has been one of the major causes for the decline in sandalwood production in the country for over a century. The disease was first reported in Kodagu in 1899.

The devastating impact in natural habitats resulted in sandalwood being classified as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1998.

Hence both statements are correct.

138. 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

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.



139. JIMEX 20 Maritime Exercise is between India and which of the following country?

- A. Jordan
- B. Japan
- C. Jamaica
- D. South Korea

Answer: B

Explanation:

The 4th edition of India - Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX will be held in the North Arabian Sea from 26th - 28th September 2020.

- **About JIMEX Exercise:**

- JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- It is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.

- **JIMEX 20:**

- Multi-faceted tactical exercises involving weapon firings, cross deck helicopter operations and complex surface, anti-submarine and air warfare drills will consolidate coordination developed by the two navies.
- Indigenously built stealth destroyer *Chennai*, Teg Class stealth frigate *Tarkash* and Fleet Tanker *Deepak* will represent the Indian Navy.
- P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also participate in the exercise.

- **Other Military Exercises between India and Japan:**

- Annual joint land military exercise named 'Dharma Guardian'.
- Joint Air Force exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri'.
- Trilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar with the USA.

140. Consider the following statements regarding Agricultural Marketing in India:

I. The role of the agriculture market is to deliver agricultural produce from the farmer to the consumer in the most efficient way which is regulated in India through the APMC Acts.

II. According to the provisions of the APMC Acts of the states, every APMC (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) is authorised to collect market fees from the buyers/traders in the prescribed manner on the sale of notified agricultural produce.

III. The relatively high incidence of commission charges on agricultural/horticultural produce renders their marketing cost high, which is an undesirable outcome.

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

- A. Only I
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements given above are correct.

141. With reference to the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The first Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was promulgated in the year 2002 and has since been revised periodically.
2. A simple and practical verification process has been instituted and Indigenous Content (IC) will now be calculated on 'Base Contract Price' i.e. Total Contract Price less taxes & duties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020. DAP 2020 will be applicable with effect from 01 October 2020. The first Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was promulgated in the year 2002 and has since been revised periodically.

Salient features of DAP 2020:

The New Category of Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) incorporates 'manufacture of either the entire/part of the equipment or spares/assemblies/sub-assemblies/Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the equipment, through its subsidiary in India.

The categories of Buy(Indian-IDDM), Make I, Make II, Production Agency in Design &Development, OFB/DPSU and SP model will be exclusively reserved for Indian Vendors meeting the criteria of Ownership and Control by resident Indian Citizens with FDI not more than 49%.

A simple and practical verification process has been instituted and Indigenous Content (IC) will now be calculated on 'Base Contract Price' i.e. Total Contract Price less taxes & duties.

Provision for exploring options for operating base applications like Fire Control System, Radars, Encryption, Communications etc on indigenous software in Buy (Indian- IDDM) & Buy (Indian) cases has been included.

A separate dedicated chapter has been incorporated in the DAP 2020 for acquisition of systems Designed and Developed by DRDO/DPSUs/OFB.

The Offset guidelines have been revised, wherein preference will be given to manufacture of complete defence products over components and various multipliers have been added to give incentivisation in discharge of Offsets.

Hence both statements are correct.

142. Which of the following is not correct regarding invasive species?

- A.An invasive species is not indigenous or native to a particular area.
- B.They are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals.
- C.They increase biodiversity and provide stability to the ecosystem.
- D.They can be introduced to an area by ship ballast water.

Answer: C

Explanation:

An invasive species is an organism that is not indigenous, or native, to a particular area and causes harm.

They are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals.

They reduce (not increase) biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, altering habitats and negatively affects the ecosystem stability. Hence, option C is correct.

They can be introduced to an area by ship ballast water, accidental release, and most often, by people.

Recently, a special drive to uproot the invasive Lantana bushes in the Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan's Udaipur district has been carried out along with the plantation of native species on the cleared patches of land.

143. Scrub typhus is a disease caused by:

A. Bacteria

B. Virus

C. Fungus

D. Protozoa

Answer: A

Explanation:

The outbreak of scrub typhus, a bacterial disease, has claimed the lives of five people in Nagaland's Noklak district bordering Myanmar. More than 600 others tested positive for the disease but recovered following treatment.

Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.

Scrub typhus is spread to people through bites of infected chiggers (larval mites).

The most common symptoms of scrub typhus include fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes rash. People with severe illness may develop organ failure and bleeding, which can be fatal if left untreated.

Most cases of scrub typhus occur in rural areas of Southeast Asia, Indonesia, China, Japan, India, and northern Australia.

Scrub typhus should be treated with the antibiotic doxycycline. Doxycycline can be used in persons of any age. People who are treated early with doxycycline usually recover quickly.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

144. India and Japan, both are involved in which of the following military exercise(s)?

1. Malabar Exercise

2. JIMEX

3. Yudh Abhyas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option 1 is correct. Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.

Option 2 is correct. The India-Japan maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) is conducted biennially. Its last edition was conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam in October 2018. The 2020 edition is set to start in northern Arabia Sea.

Option 3 is incorrect. The Yudh Abhyas is a regularly-scheduled bilateral exercise hosted by the Indian and U.S. Armies.

145. Which of the following institution has published the Global Climate Risk Index 2020?

- A. Germanwatch
- B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- C. World Meteorological Organization
- D. United States Environmental Protection Agency

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 published by Germanwatch analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heatwaves etc.).

The Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2020 is the 15th edition of this annual analysis. The report mentions that India suffered from one of the longest ever recorded heatwaves in 2018, with hundreds of deaths, when temperatures climbed to up to 48°C. Prolonged drought and resultant widespread crop failures, compounded by a water shortage, brought about violent riots and increased migration.

146. With reference to the Namami Gange Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Ganga Avalokan Museum is the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Kanpur.
2. Under this programme government started laying a network of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to prevent the waste water from flowing into the Ganges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 6 mega development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission.

He also inaugurated the Ganga Avalokan Museum, the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Haridwar.

He released a book “Rowing Down the Ganges”. It explains in details how the River Ganges stands as a glowing symbol of our Culture, Faith and Heritage.

He termed the Namami Gange Mission as the largest integrated river conservation mission which not only aims at the cleanliness of River Ganga but also focuses on comprehensive upkeep of the River. Government is following a four pronged strategy to achieve this objective:

First- started laying a network of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to prevent the waste water from flowing into the Ganges.

Second, The STPs were built by keeping in mind the demands for the next 10 - 15 years.

Third - By making around hundred big towns/cities and five thousand villages along the River Ganga Open Defecation Free (ODF).

And Fourth - By making an all-out effort to stop the pollution in the tributaries of River Ganga.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

147. With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing every rural household in the country with piped-water connection.
2. The mission has also ensured that at least 50% of the members of the water committee would be women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission. He also unveiled the 'Margadarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission' (Guidelines for the Village Panchayats and Water Committees) on the occasion.

The Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing every rural household in the country with piped-water connection. The new logo of the Mission shall continue to inspire the need to save every drop of water.

Referring to the Margadarshika, the Prime Minister said that they are equally important for the Gram Panchayats, people living in rural areas as well as for the Government machinery.

Unlike the previous programmes, Jal Jeevan Mission adopts a bottom to top approach, where the users and Paani Samitis (Water Committees) in the villages envision the whole project from its implementation to maintenance and operation.

The mission has also ensured that at least 50% of the members of the water committee would be women.

The Mardarshika Guidelines released today will guide the members of the Water Committee and Gram Panchayats in taking the right decisions.

Prime Minister said a special 100-day campaign is being launched on 2nd Oct this year under Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure drinking water connection to every school and Anganwadi in the country.

Hence both statements are correct.

148. With reference to the Amnesty International, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-governmental organization with its headquarters in the United Kingdom focused on human rights.
2. The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "defence of human dignity against torture," and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Amnesty International India said the government had frozen all its bank accounts, leading to all of its work in the country coming to a halt.

Amnesty International (AI) is a non-governmental organization with its headquarters in the United Kingdom focused on human rights.

Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards.

Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961, following the publication of the article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in The Observer on 28 May 1961, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.

The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "defence of human dignity against torture," and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.

Hence both statements are correct.

149. With reference to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) consider the following statements:

1. It brings together the public and private sectors to create equal access to vaccines for children.
2. India is a beneficiary of a global vaccine alliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), a global vaccine alliance is an international organisation (established in 2000) that aims to bring together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Its core partners include the WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

India is a GAVI, a global Vaccine Alliance beneficiary and will, therefore, receive a certain proportion of the vaccines from the COVAX facility. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

COVAX is an effort to ensure that people in all corners of the world will get access to Covid-19 vaccines once they are available, regardless of their wealth.

150. With reference to the White Ribbon Alliance, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-profit and non-governmental organization.
2. It aims to eliminate HIV infections globally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

The White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) is a nonpartisan, non-profit and non-governmental membership organization. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It aims to decrease maternal and newborn death globally. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Founded in 1999 and same year it came to India as WRA India

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., USA.