

January C.A. Quiz compilation

1. With reference to the Argentina's law on abortion, consider the following statements:

1. Argentina's Congress legalised abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy.
2. Prior to the passing of the bill, abortions were only permitted in cases of rape or when the woman's health was at serious risk.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Argentina's Congress legalised abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy this week, in what was a ground-breaking decision in a country that has some of the world's most restrictive abortion laws.

This change is historic and its implications may be witnessed beyond Argentina, in Latin America at large.

Prior to the passing of the bill, abortions were only permitted in cases of rape or when the woman's health was at serious risk. Activists have been campaigning for years, calling for an overturning of this law that has been in existence since 1921.

The bill calls for greater autonomy for women over their own bodies and control of their reproductive rights, and also provides better healthcare for pregnant women and young mothers.

Hence both statements are correct.

2. Recently seen in news, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in:

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Bihar
- D. Punjab

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Tribal communities have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the Centre's notification classifying 121 villages around the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Narmada district as eco-sensitive zones.

Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Gujarat state, located in the western Satpura Range south of the Narmada River.

It shares a common boundary with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Firstly, as per the provisions of the notification, land falling in the eco-sensitive zone cannot be transferred for non-agricultural use for commercial, industrial or residential purposes. Any land that needs to be transferred can be done so only after approval from the state government.

Second, a process has been initiated to include the state government as the co-owner of the land in the 121 villages.

Third, they feel that it could dilute the “power” vested with villagers under the Panchayat (Extension of Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, implemented in areas notified under Schedule V of the Constitution.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. With reference to the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), consider the following statements:

1. Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) consist of western DFC and eastern DFC.
2. Around 70% of the freight trains currently running on the Indian Railway network are slated to shift to the freight corridors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 351-km section between Khurja and Bhaupur in Uttar Pradesh for commercial operations of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

The DFC consists of two arms. The section launched recently is part of the 1,839-km Eastern DFC that starts at Sohnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal.

The other arm is the around 1,500-km Western DFC from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to JNPT in Mumbai, touching all major ports along the way.

The 351-km section stretches between Khurja, the 12th stop after Sohnewal in the North, to New Bhaupur, near Kanpur.

There is also a section under construction between Dadri and Khurja to connect the Eastern and Western arms.

It is built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crore through a loan from World Bank (which is funding a majority of the EDFC; the WDFC is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency).

Around 70% of the freight trains currently running on the Indian Railway network are slated to shift to the freight corridors, leaving the paths open for more passenger trains.

Hence both statements are correct.

4. With reference to the Akash Missile System, consider the following statements:

1. Akash is an Air to Air Missile with a range of 25 Kms.
2. Akash is country’s important missile with over 96 percent indigenisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Union Cabinet has approved export of Akash Missile System and has created a Committee for faster Approval of Defence Exports.

Akash is a Surface to Air Missile with a range of 25 Kms. The missile was inducted in 2014 in IAF and in 2015 in Indian Army. Akash is country's important missile with over 96 percent indigenisation.

After its induction in the Services, interest is shown in Akash missile by many friendly countries.

The Cabinet approval will facilitate Indian manufactures to participate in RFI/RFP issued by various countries.

So far, Indian defence exports included parts/components etc. The export of big platforms was minimal. This initiative of the Cabinet would help the country to improve its defence products and make them globally competitive.

Besides Akash, there is interest coming in other major platforms like Coastal Surveillance System, Radars and Air platforms.

To provide faster approvals for export of such platforms, a Committee comprising of Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor has been created.

This Committee would authorise subsequent exports of major indigenous platforms to various countries. The Committee would also explore various available options including the Government-to-Government route.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

5. With reference to the 'SAHAYAK-NG', consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container.
2. Sahayak-NG has a Satellite-based Reporting Terminal (SBRT), which provides its precise GPS location enabling the ship in distress to pick up critical stores.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy) off the coast of Goa.

The trial was conducted by Indian Navy to enhance its operational logistics capabilities and provide critical engineering stores to ships which are deployed more than 2000 km from the coast.

It reduces the requirement of ships to come close to the coast to collect spares and stores.

Two DRDO laboratories i.e. Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam and ADRDE, Agra were involved in the development of SAHAYAK-NG container along the industry partner M/s Avintel for GPS integration.

SAHAYAK-NG is an advanced version of SAHAYAK Mk I. The newly developed GPS aided air dropped container is having the capability to carry a payload that weighs upto 50 kg and can be dropped from heavy aircraft.

Sahayak-NG has a Satellite-based Reporting Terminal (SBRT), which provides its precise GPS location enabling the ship in distress to pick up critical stores.

Hence both statements are correct.

6. North East's first-ever specialised "Ginger" Processing Plant is located in:

- A. Sikkim
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Assam
- D. Nagaland

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

North East's first-ever specialised "Ginger" Processing Plant at district Ri-Bhoui in Meghalaya is being revived and is likely to become functional in the beginning of 2021. The only Ginger Processing Plant of North East India was established around the year 2004 but has remained non-functional for many years.

The NERAMAC has now undertaken the responsibility of reviving it and initiated steps to operationalize the closed Plant through PPP mode.

The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) is a PSU working under the aegis of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

7. With reference to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.
2. GAVI has observer status at the World Health 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office(SEARO)/ Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be representing India from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2023.

The Board normally meets twice a year in June and November/ December and holds an annual retreat, normally in March or April.

The GAVI Board is responsible for strategic direction and policy-making, oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation.

GAVI, officially Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a public–private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.

GAVI has observer status at the World Health Assembly. It was founded in 2000 and is located at Geneva, Switzerland.

GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance as part of its mission to save lives, reduce poverty and protect the world against the threat of epidemics, has helped vaccinate more than 822 million children in the world’s poorest countries, preventing more than 14 million future deaths.

Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala presently serves as Chair of the GAVI Alliance Board.

Hence both statements are correct.

8. With reference to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG), consider the following statements:

1. The overall aim of the Consortium is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through a multi-laboratory network.

2. INSACOG will have a high level Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee which will provide guidance and oversight to the consortium specially for policy matters and it will have a Scientific Advisory Group for scientific and technical guidance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Government of India has launched the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG).

The overall aim of the Consortium is to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 on a regular basis through a multi-laboratory network. This vital research consortium will also assist in developing potential vaccines in the future.

It comprises 10 labs namely DBT-NIBMG Kalyani, DBT-ILS Bhubaneswar, ICMR-NIV Pune, DBT-NCCS Pune, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, DBT-CDFD Hyderabad, DBT-InSTEM/NCBS Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, and NCDC Delhi.

INSACOG will have a high level Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee which will provide guidance and oversight to the consortium specially for policy matters and it will have a Scientific Advisory Group for scientific and technical guidance.

Coordinated by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with MoH&FW, ICMR, and CSIR, the strategy and roadmap of the National SARS CoV2 Genome Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG) has been prepared.

Hence both statements are correct.

9. With reference to the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), consider the following statements:

1. The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.
2. It was founded in 2015 and is headquartered in New York.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.

IOSCO works closely with the G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets.

The IOSCO Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation have been endorsed by FSB as one of the key standards for sound financial systems.

It was founded in 1983 and is Headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

Benefits of membership of IOSCO:

The membership of IOSCO would provide IFSCA the platform to exchange information at the global level and regional level on areas of common interests.

Further, the IOSCO platform would enable IFSCA to learn from the experiences and best practices of the regulators of other well established financial centres.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

10. With reference to the disability Compensation to CAPF Personnel, consider the following statements:

1. Centre has recently decided to extend Disability Compensation to all serving employees, if they get disabled in the line of duty while performing their service and are retained in service in spite of such disablement.
2. The Ministry of Personnel recently did away with minimum qualifying service of 10 years for pension, if a government servant is incapacitated due to bodily or medical infirmity and retired from government service.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Centre has decided to extend Disability Compensation to all serving employees, if they get disabled in the line of duty while performing their service and are retained in service in spite of such disablement.

This was announced by Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

The move will particularly provide a huge relief to young Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel like CRPF, BSF and CISF since disability in performance of duties is generally reported in their case due to constraints of job requirement as well as hostile or difficult work-environment.

In another employee-friendly decision, the Ministry of Personnel recently did away with minimum qualifying service of 10 years for pension, if a government servant is incapacitated due to bodily or medical infirmity and retired from government service.

Accordingly, the rule was amended to provide Invalid Pension at 50 per cent of the last pay, even if the employee had not completed minimum qualifying service of 10 years.

Hence both statements are correct.

11. With reference to the ethanol distillation capacity, consider the following statements:

1. Union Cabinet has recently approved modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country.

2. Government has fixed a target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Cabinet has approved modified scheme to enhance ethanol distillation capacity in the country.

This will increase income of farmers as other feed stocks such as cereals (rice, wheat, barley, corn & sorghum), sugarcane and sugar beet to be used for production of ethanol

For benefiting a large population of farmers, Government is encouraging distilleries to produce ethanol from maize & rice available with FCI.

India is well on the path of achieving a 10% blending target by 2022. This will help increase the income of our farmers and enhance their livelihoods

Government has fixed a target of 10% blending of fuel grade ethanol with petrol by 2022, 15% blending by 2026 & 20% blending by 2030. Government also planning to prepone achievement of 20% blending target by year 2025

Hence both statements are correct.

12. With reference to the Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG), consider the following statements:

1. It has the ability to detect random quantum events and convert those into a stream of binary digits.

2. It was developed by CSIR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT), a DRDO facility based in Mumbai, has developed a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG) which has the ability to detect random quantum events and convert those into a stream of binary digits.

The Laboratory has developed a fibre-optic branch path based QRNG.

Branch path based QRNG is based on the principle that if a single photon is incident on a balanced beam splitter, it will take either of the beam-splitter output paths randomly.

As the path chosen by photon is random, the randomness is translated to sequence of bits.

Significance:

With this development India enters the club of countries who have the technology to achieve the generation of random numbers based on the Quantum Phenomenon.

Random numbers have essential roles in various fields ranging from quantum communication, cryptography applications like key generation, key wrapping, authentication along with scientific simulations, lotteries and fundamental physics experiments.

The generation of perfect randomness is generally considered impossible with classical methodologies.

Quantum mechanics has the inherent potential of providing true random numbers and thus has become the preferred option for scientific applications requiring randomness.

DYSL-QT is one of the five YSLs (Young Scientist Laboratories) of the DRDO which are working on five different technologies.

The other facilities are Artificial Intelligence (DYSL-AI) Bengaluru, Cognitive Technologies (DYSL-CT) Chennai, Asymmetric Technologies (DYSL-AT) Kolkata, Smart Materials (DYSL-SM) Hyderabad.

These five facilities were dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January this year.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

13. Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR), sometimes seen in news is released by

- A. World Bank
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. UN Environment
- D. UNFCCC

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR) is a biennial effort led by the UN Environment to evaluate the capacities and performance of the nations around the world to measure sustainability of economy and wellbeing of their people.

A country's inclusive wealth is the social value (not dollar price) of all its capital assets, including natural capital, human capital and produced capital.

14. With reference to the Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline, consider the following statements:

1. The 450 km long pipeline has been built by GAIL (India) Ltd.
2. Laying of the pipeline was done through a special technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling method.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Kochi - Mangaluru Natural Gas Pipeline to the nation on 5th January 2021.

The 450 km long pipeline has been built by GAIL (India) Ltd.

It has transportation capacity of 12 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per day.

It will carry natural gas from the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regasification Terminal at Kochi (Kerala) to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka), while passing through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

Laying of the pipeline was an engineering challenge as the route of the pipeline necessitated it to cross water bodies at more than 100 locations. This was done through a special technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling method.

Significance:

- The event marks an important milestone towards the creation of 'One Nation One Gas Grid'.
- The pipeline will supply environment friendly and affordable fuel in the form of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the transportation sector.
- It will also supply Natural Gas to commercial and industrial units across the districts along the pipeline. Consumption of cleaner fuel will help in improving air quality by curbing air pollution.

Hence both statements are correct.

15. Which of the following is the Nation's first indigenously developed DNA vaccine candidate against COVID-19?

- A. ZyCoV-D
- B. Covishield
- C. Covaxin
- D. Sputnik V

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Nation's first indigenously developed DNA vaccine candidate against COVID-19, ZyCoV-D, by M/s Zydus Cadila has been approved by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), for conduct of the Phase III clinical trials.

The candidate has been supported by the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) under the aegis of BIRAC and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Zydus Cadila completed Phase-I/II clinical trials of this DNA Vaccine candidate, in India, in more than 1,000 participants and interim data indicated that the vaccine is safe and immunogenic when three doses were administered intradermally.

Based on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee, which reviewed the interim data, the DCGI has accorded permission for conducting Phase-III clinical trial in 26,000 Indian participants.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

16. With reference to the banana grit, consider the following statements:

1. It was developed by CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) at Pappanamcode in Kerala.
2. The concept was introduced to utilise the presence of resistant starch in bananas, which is reported to improve gut health.
3. Changalikodan Nendran Banana got Geographical indication registration from the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Scientists at the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) at Pappanamcode in Kerala have come up with a new product, banana grit or granules, developed from raw Nendran bananas.

The product resembles to 'rava' and broken wheat. Billed as an ideal ingredient for a healthy diet, banana grit can be used for making a wide range of dishes, according to the NIIST.

The granules can be used for making upma, or it can be mixed with banana powder for porridge, with milk or coconut milk for use as a health drink.

The concept was introduced to utilise the presence of resistant starch in bananas, which is reported to improve gut health.

Hence, the dishes prepared with banana grit and its by-product, banana powder, incline to the new focus on gut health, which the scientific community is widely discussing now to maintain health and well-being.

Changalikodan Nendran Banana or famously known as Changalikodan is a banana variety originated and cultivated in Chengazhikodu village of Thrissur District in Kerala

Changalikodan, now are cultivated on the banks of the Bharathapuzha river. Changalikodan got Geographical indication registration from the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai.

Generally consumed ripe, Nendran banana also finds use in typical Kerala dishes such as avial and thoran.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

17. Which of the following physical, biotic or abiotic factors influence where species live?

1. Temperature
2. Humidity
3. Soil chemistry and pH
4. Salinity
5. Oxygen levels

Select the correct answer code:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Life is found almost everywhere on Earth, but it is not distributed evenly around the planet. Different species are found in different areas; some species have overlapping ranges, others do not. Each species has a set of environmental conditions within which it can best survive and reproduce. Not surprisingly, those conditions are the ones for which it is best adapted. Many different physical, abiotic (non- living) factors influence where species live, including temperature, humidity, soil chemistry, pH, salinity and oxygen levels.

For instance, a giraffe does very well in the heat of the African savanna, but would quickly freeze to death in the Arctic. This example points out an important aspect of tolerance ranges – different types of organisms have different tolerance ranges for the same factor.

18. With reference to Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. There are only three other occasions when the Rajya Sabha met for fewer than 50 sittings in a year, 48 in 1999 and 46 each in 2004 and 2008.
2. During the year 2020, the annual productivity has been 82.7%, the highest annual productivity during the last 11 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

With the government refusing to call the winter session of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha sat for just 33 days in 2020, its lowest-ever tally of sittings in a year.

The Budget and the monsoon sessions had to be cut short due to COVID-19.

There are only three other occasions when the Rajya Sabha met for fewer than 50 sittings in a year — 48 in 1999 and 46 each in 2004 and 2008.

The last time the winter session was cancelled was 36 years ago in 1984. In overall parliamentary history, there have been only two other instances in 1979 and 1975 when the winter session was cancelled.

As per an analysis by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the limited number of sittings did not hurt the productivity. During the year 2020, the annual productivity has been 82.7%, the highest annual productivity during the last 11 years.

A total of 39 Bills have been passed by the House during 2020, including 12 during the Budget session and 27 during the monsoon session.

Hence both statements are correct.

19. Deepor Beel is a wetland located in:

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Nagaland
- D. Manipur

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Kamrup (Metropolitan) district administration has prohibited community fishing in Deepor Beel, a wetland on the south-western edge of Guwahati and Assam's only Ramsar site.

The order was necessary to prevent fishing, excavation and construction in and around the wetland that has been shrinking over the years.

Deepor Beel was designated a Ramsar site in 2002 for sustaining a range of aquatic life forms besides 219 species of birds.

A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

20. With reference to the 'School Bag Policy, 2020', consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
2. According to the circular, schoolteachers should inform the students in advance about the books and notebooks to be brought to school on a particular day and frequently check their bags to ensure that they are not carrying unnecessary material.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Directorate of Education has issued a circular asking schools to follow the new 'School Bag Policy, 2020' released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

According to the circular, schoolteachers should inform the students in advance about the books and notebooks to be brought to school on a particular day and frequently check their bags to ensure that they are not carrying unnecessary material.

The weight of the school bags, as per the policy, should be 1.6 to 2.2 kg for students of Classes I and II, 1.7 to 2.5 kg for Classes III, IV and V, 2 to 3 kg for Classes VI and VII, 2.5 to 4 kg for Class VIII, 2.5 to 4.5 kg for Classes IX and X and 3.5 to 5 kg for Classes XI and XII.

The teachers should take the responsibility of checking the weight of school bags of the students every three months on a day selected for the whole class and any information about heavy bags should be communicated to the parents.

To reduce the weight of the school bag, the school management should provide quality potable water in sufficient quantity to all the students in the school so that they do not need to carry water bottles from their homes.

Heavy school bags are a serious threat to the health and well-being of students.

The heavy school bag has severe/adverse physical effects on growing children which can cause damage to their vertebral column and knees.

Hence both statements are correct.

21. Sabari River is one of the main tributaries of which of the following river?

- A. Krishna
- B. Godavari
- C. Periyar
- D. Yamuna

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

In a unique initiative, Migrant fisher-folk families have built temporary houses on the sands of Sabari river near Chintoor village along the tri-State border of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh in East Godavari Agency.

Sabari River is one of the main tributaries of Godavari.

It originates from the western slopes of Eastern Ghats in Odisha state from Sinkaram hill ranges. It forms common boundary between Chhattisgarh and Odisha states and later enters into Andhra Pradesh to merge with River Godavari.

It is also known as Kolab river in Odisha. Upper Kolab project, located in Odisha across the Sabari is a major dam project supplying water for irrigation and Hydro power generation.

Sileru River (known as Machkund in its upper reaches) is the major tributary of Sabari which joins Sabari river at tri-junction boundary point of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. Sileru river has huge potential of hydro electricity generation.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

22. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides funding to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of international environmental conventions. The GEF serves as a “financial mechanism” to which of these conventions?

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
2. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
3. UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
4. Minamata Convention on Mercury

Select the correct answer code:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The GEF provides funding to assist developing countries in meeting the objectives of international environmental conventions. The GEF serves as a “financial mechanism” to five conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Minamata Convention on Mercury.

23. The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve shares its boundaries with which of the following states?

- 1. Tamil Nadu
- 2. Kerala
- 3. Karnataka

Choose correct answer:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve, lies on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu. It shares its boundaries with the states of Karnataka and Kerala.

24. Despite strict laws, the illegal trade of ‘Pangolin’ is threatening the very existence of the species. What is the status of India Pangolin under IUCN?

- A. Near Threatened
- B. Least Concern
- C. Endangered
- D. Extinct in the Wild

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Indian Pangolin is listed as Endangered because it is subject to hunting and increasing levels of poaching, principally for its meat and scales, both for local use and for illicit international trade in scales, which has also occurred historically. Available evidence suggests this trade is destined for East Asia where scales are used in traditional medicines.

25. Fordow, Natanz and Arak, which are quite often in news, are associated with –

- A. Uranium/Nuclear Enrichment Facilities in Iran
- B. Newly developed missiles by Russia
- C. Mountain ranges in Armenia
- D. ISIS stronghold in Syria

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Iran has told the United Nations nuclear watchdog it plans to enrich uranium to 20% purity, a level it achieved before its 2015 accord, at its Fordow site buried inside a mountain.

The Arak area has several industrial complexes, some with ties to the nuclear program, in particular the IR-40 reactor under construction and a heavy water production plant, both near Arak.

26. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding River Nile?

1. The Grand Renaissance Dam is being constructed on River Nile.
2. The river originates from south of the equator in Africa.
3. The river forms an arcuate delta and drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Grand Renaissance Dam is being constructed by Ethiopia on the river Blue Nile. Given the dam's location on the Blue Nile tributary, it would allow Ethiopia to gain control of the flow of the river's waters. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Blue Nile is a tributary of the Nile river and it carries about two-thirds of the river's water volume and most of the silt.

The River Nile is in Africa. It originates in Burundi, south of the equator, and flows northward through northeastern Africa, eventually flowing through Egypt and finally draining into the Mediterranean Sea. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Nile River is the longest river in the world. The Nile has a length of about 6,695 kilometers (4,160 miles).

The Nile basin is huge and includes parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo (Kinshasa), Kenya.

The Nile River forms an arcuate delta as it empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Deltas with triangular or fan-shape are called arcuate (arc-like) deltas. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

The Nile is formed by three principal streams: the Blue Nile, the Atbara, and the White Nile.

27. With reference to Asian Waterbird Census, consider the following statements:

1. In India it is jointly coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society and Wetlands International.
2. The census covers East Asian - Australasian Flyway and Central Asian Flyway.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International.

The AWC is jointly coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent and has grown rapidly to cover major regions of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia. The census covers the entire East Asian - Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The East Asia - Australasia Flyway extends from Arctic Russia and North America to the southern limits of Australia and New Zealand. It encompasses large parts of East Asia, all of Southeast Asia and includes eastern India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.

28. With reference to the vertical and horizontal reservations, consider the following statements:

1. Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as horizontal reservation.
2. Vertical reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Supreme Court clarified the position of law on the interplay of vertical and horizontal reservations. The decision in Saurav Yadav versus State of Uttar Pradesh dealt with issues arising from the way different classes of reservation were to be applied in the selection process to fill posts of constables in the state.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation. It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law. Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

The horizontal quota is applied separately to each vertical category, and not across the board. The interlocking of the two types of reservation throws up a host of questions on how certain groups are to be identified. For example would an SC woman be put in the category of women or SC?

Saurav Yadav case:

The court ruled that if a person belonging to an intersection of vertical-horizontal reserved category had secured scores high enough to qualify without the vertical reservation, the

person would be counted as qualifying without the vertical reservation, and cannot be excluded from the horizontal quota in the general category.

It argued that if both vertical and horizontal quotas were to be applied together then the overall selection would have candidates with lower scores.

Hence both statements are incorrect.

29. With reference to the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), consider the following statements:

1. The Centre (39%) and States (39%) are expected to have almost equal share in implementing the NIP in India, followed by the private sector (22%).

2. Union Finance Minister in her Budget speech 2019-20 announced that Rs. 100 lakh crore would be invested on infrastructure over the next five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) submitted its Final Report on NIP for FY 2019-25 to the Union Minister for Finance.

The Final Report of NIP Task Force is projecting total infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during the period FY 2020-25. Out of Rs. 111 lakh crore, projects worth Rs 44 lakh crore (40% of NIP) are under implementation, projects worth Rs 33 lakh crore (30%) are at conceptual stage, projects worth Rs 22 lakh crore (20%) are under development.

Information regarding project stage are unavailable for projects worth Rs 11 lakh crore (10%).

Sectors such as energy (24%), roads (18%), urban (17%) and railways (12%) amount to around 71% of the projected infrastructure investments in India.

The Centre (39%) and States (39%) are expected to have almost equal share in implementing the NIP in India, followed by the private sector (22%).

The Task Force has recommended that three Committees be setup:

a Committee to monitor NIP progress and eliminate delays;

a Steering Committee in each Infrastructure ministry level for following up implementation;

and

a Steering Committee in DEA for raising financial resources for the NIP.

The NIP project database would be hosted on India Investment Grid (IIG) shortly to provide visibility to the NIP and help in its financing with prospective investors; domestic and foreign, able to access updated project level information.

Union Finance Minister in her Budget speech 2019-20 announced that Rs. 100 lakh crore would be invested on infrastructure over the next five years. Hence both statements are correct.

30. The proposed Chattergala tunnel is located in:

A. Jammu & Kashmir

- B. Punjab
- C. Sikkim
- D. Nagaland

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The new Director General, Border Road Organisation (BRO), Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry briefed Government of India about the Chattergala tunnel.

The proposed Chattergala tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir will connect district Kathua with district Doda enroute the new Highway via Basohli-Bani through Chattergalla to touch Bholderwah and Doda.

This is going to be a historic landmark project providing all-weather alternate road connectivity between the two distant regions and reducing the travel time from Doda to Lakhanpur on the Punjab border to just around four hours.

It is going to be a 6.8 Km long tunnel. The tunnel is likely to take about 4 years for completion after the execution work starts and its construction cost is around Rs. 3,000 crore. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

31. With reference to the bird flu, consider the following statements:

1. It is a highly contagious viral disease caused by Influenza Type A viruses which generally affects poultry birds such as chickens and turkeys.
2. People coming in close contact with infected alive or dead birds have contracted the H5N1 bird flu, and it does not usually spread from person to person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Bird flu has been reported among wild geese in Himachal Pradesh, crows in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and ducks in Kerala. In Haryana, around one lakh poultry birds have died mysteriously in the last few days.

Avian influenza or bird flu is a highly contagious viral disease caused by Influenza Type A viruses which generally affects poultry birds such as chickens and turkeys.

There are many strains of the virus – some of them are mild and may merely cause a low egg production or other mild symptoms among chickens, while others are severe and lethal.

Wild aquatic birds such as ducks and geese are the natural reservoir of Influenza A viruses and the central players in the ecology of these viruses.

History of bird flu among humans:

It was in 1997 when humans are first known to have contracted bird flu following an outbreak in a live bird market of Hong Kong. It was the H5N1 strain of the virus.

Subsequently, several other strains of the virus such as H5N2 and H9N2 spread from animals to humans, thus becoming a global public health concern.

Does it spread easily to humans?

No, it does not. Generally, people coming in close contact with infected alive or dead birds have contracted the H5N1 bird flu, and it does not usually spread from person to person. There is also no evidence, that the disease can be spread to people through properly prepared and cooked poultry food. The virus is sensitive to heat, and dies in cooking temperatures.

Symptoms:

Unlike in birds, where it generally infects the gut, the avian influenza attacks the respiratory tract of humans and may cause severe respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

Its early symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, and sometimes abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

Treatment:

Antiviral drugs, especially oseltamivir, improve the prospects of survival in humans.

Among poultry birds, vaccination strategies advised by the World Organisation for Animal Health can be used to prevent the flu.

Hence both statements are correct.

32. Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on "Specified Skilled Worker" recently signed between India and which of the following country?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Vietnam
- D. Mongolia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Government of India and Government of Japan, on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of the System Pertaining to "Specified Skilled Worker". The MOC would set an institutional mechanism for partnership and cooperation between India and Japan on sending and accepting skilled Indian workers, who have qualified the required skill and Japanese language test, to work in fourteen specified sectors in Japan. These Indian workers would be granted a new status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" by the Government of Japan.

Implementation Strategy: Under this MOC, a Joint Working Group will be set up to follow up the implementation of this MOC.

Major Impact: It would enhance people-to -people contacts, foster mobility of workers and skilled professionals from India to Japan.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI):

1. It is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population aging in India.
2. It is being conducted by the National Sample Survey Office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) is a full-scale national survey of scientific investigation of the health, economic, and social determinants and consequences of population aging in India. The LASI is a nationally representative survey over 72,000 older adults age 45 and above across all states and union territories of India.

The concept of LASI is comparable to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) in the United States.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The National Programme for Health Care of Elderly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India, through International Institute for Population Sciences, (IIPS), Mumbai in collaboration with Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern California, USA, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and National Institute on Ageing.

Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1 has been released recently.

34. Consider the following statements regarding the recently released Draft Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP):

1. It is a first ever national level Science & Technology policy for India.
2. It proposes “one nation, one subscription” policy whereby, in return for one centrally-negotiated payment, all individuals in India will have access to journal articles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The draft Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) released recently once approved will be fifth such national policy since independence.

Statement 2 is correct. The draft STIP proposes Open Data Policy for Publicly Funded Research, i.e. all data used in and generated from public-funded research will be available to everyone under FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) terms.

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Particulate Matter (PM):

1. This term is used for mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air.
2. Anthropogenic sources include combustion engines and solid-fuel combustion for energy production.
2. It does not have major impact on human health due to its extremely small size.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Particulate matter (PM) is the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air.

Particle pollution includes:

PM10: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller; and
PM2.5: fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Statement 2 is correct. Anthropogenic sources include combustion engines (both diesel and petrol), solid-fuel (coal, lignite, heavy oil and biomass) combustion for energy production in households and industry, other industrial activities (building, mining, manufacture of cement, ceramic and bricks, and smelting), and erosion of the pavement by road traffic and abrasion of brakes and tyres.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Exposure to such particles can affect both lungs and heart.

Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including: premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma etc.

As per a study in The Lancet Planetary Health journal, an estimated 349,681 pregnancy losses per year in South Asia were associated with exposure to PM2.5 concentrations.

36. With reference to the auctions for 4G spectrum, consider the following statements:

1. The Union government owns all the publicly available assets within the geographical boundaries of the country, which also include airwaves.
2. Spectrum is subdivided into bands which have single frequency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said on January 6 that auctions for 4G spectrum in the 700, 800, 900, 1,800, 2,100, 2,300, and 2,500 MHz bands will begin from March 1.

Devices such as cell-phones and wireline telephones require signals to connect from one end to another. These signals are carried on airwaves, which must be sent at designated frequencies to avoid any kind of interference.

The Union government owns all the publicly available assets within the geographical boundaries of the country, which also include airwaves.

With the expansion in the number of cell-phone, wireline telephone and internet users, the need to provide more space for the signals arises from time to time.

To sell these assets to companies willing to set up the required infrastructure to transport these waves from one end to another, the central government through the DoT auctions these airwaves from time to time.

These airwaves are called spectrum, which is subdivided into bands which have varying frequencies. All these airwaves are sold for a certain period of time, after which their validity lapses, which is generally set at 20 years.

The last spectrum auctions were held in 2016, when the government offered 2,354.55 MHz at a reserve price of Rs 5.60 lakh crore.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

37. G Kishan Reddy committee, recently in news, is related to:

- A. protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development
- B. On Small Scale Industries
- C. decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Centre has decided to form a committee to protect the language, culture and land of Ladakh and ensuring citizen's participation in the Union Territory's development.

The Committee will be headed by the Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and will include elected representatives from Ladakh, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, central government, and the Ladakh administration.

The decision to form the Committee came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah met a 10-member delegation from Ladakh who expressed their views about the need to protect Ladakh's unique cultural identity.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

38. With respect to “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a celebratory day observed on 9 January, a day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.
2. The theme of the Convention this year is “Redefining engagement with the Indian diaspora”.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized on 9th January in virtual format in the backdrop of COVID pandemic.

Hence Statement 2 is incorrect: The theme of the Convention this year is “Contributing to Atma Nirbhar Bharat”,

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will feature a keynote address by the Chief Guest Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname. The winners of the online “Bharat ko Janiye Quiz” for the youth will also be announced. The names of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees for 2020-21 will also be announced.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2015) on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.

Hence Statement 1 is correct: The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

39. Consider the following statements regarding the Avian Influenza:

1. The H5N1 subtype of the influenza virus does not infect humans.
2. Seasonal influenza vaccination does not protect against H5N1 infection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. Influenza A viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus: hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA).

H5N1 is a type of influenza virus that causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds called avian influenza (or “bird flu”). Human cases of H5N1 avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person.

Almost all cases of H5N1 infection in people have been associated with close contact with infected live or dead birds, or H5N1-contaminated environments.

Statement 2 is correct. There is no vaccine for humans against avian flu. The vaccine against human influenza virus does not protect against avian flu.

It is safe to eat properly prepared and cooked poultry and game birds. The virus is sensitive to heat.

40. Which of the following organisations is responsible for the implementation of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project?

1. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum-2021 is being organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in virtual format.

The MoSPI has taken up several initiatives under the project “Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES)” which aims to advance the theory and practice of ecosystem accounting in India.

The NCAVES Project, funded by the European Union, has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). Hence, option D is correct.

India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico.

In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the MoSPI in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the Department of Space.

41. With reference to World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. Currently, public distribution programmes of developing countries are included under Amber Box.
2. The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) was the result of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the final session of India's seventh Trade Policy Review (TPR) concluded at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The TPR is an important mechanism under the WTO's monitoring function in which member countries' trade and related policies are examined by the WTO with an aim to contribute towards improved adherence to WTO rules.

Currently, public distribution programmes of developing countries are included under trade-distorting Amber Box measures that attract reduction commitments of WTO. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

India with the group of developing countries is demanding that the programmes for food security purposes be exempted from subsidy reduction commitments of WTO.

India has repeatedly demanded a permanent solution for public stockholding issues.

The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) was an early result of the Uruguay Round. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Uruguay Round was the 8th round of multilateral trade negotiations (MTN) conducted within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), spanning from 1986 to 1993 and embracing 123 countries as "contracting parties".

It is the main transparency instrument of the WTO, affording opportunities for a process of collective evaluation of the trade policies and practices of individual members.

42. With reference to Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan to India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an interest free loan with a repayment period of 15 years.
2. It supports the Indian government's programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

India and Japan signed an agreement for a loan of up to 50 billion yen (about Rs. 3,550 crore) to back India's economic support programmes for the poor and vulnerable affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

It is a part of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan. ODA is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

The loan has an interest rate of 0.65% per annum and a repayment period of 15 years, including a five-year grace period. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The financial support aims to support the Indian government's programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which aims to mitigate socio-economic impacts and strengthen socio-economic institutions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

43. With reference to the supermassive black hole, consider the following statements:

1. Every large galaxy in the universe has a supermassive black hole at its centre, whose mass is millions or billions of times that of the Sun.
2. The black hole at the centre of our galaxy– the Milky Way– is called Sagittarius A*, and is 26,000 light-years away from Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

A supermassive black hole, which is estimated to weigh up to 100 billion times the mass of the Sun, is seemingly missing, leaving astronomers perplexed.

Scientists have been looking for the black hole using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Hubble Space Telescope, and have so far found no evidence that it is anywhere to be found.

The black hole is supposed to be located in Abell 2261, an enormous galaxy cluster that is about 2.7 billion light-years away from our planet.

At 2.7 billion light-years away, the Abell galaxy is at an overwhelmingly large distance away from us.

Every large galaxy in the universe has a supermassive black hole at its centre, whose mass is millions or billions of times that of the Sun.

The black hole at the centre of our galaxy– the Milky Way– is called Sagittarius A*, and is 26,000 light-years away from Earth.

Hence both statements are correct.

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Mass slaughter of domestic poultry birds, such as chickens and ducks, to contain the spread of bird flu is called culling.
2. In India, culling is done in a radius one kilometre from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

After culling of ducks and chickens in Kerala, the Haryana government has decided to cull poultry birds in Barwala after some of them tested positive for the avian influenza.

Mass slaughter of domestic poultry birds, such as chickens and ducks, to contain the spread of bird flu is called culling.

During culling operations, all domestic birds in an infected area, i.e., an area in which a case of bird flu has been detected, are slaughtered and their remains buried.

Though wild and other birds may also carry the bird flu, only domestic poultry birds are culled since they are present in close proximity with people, raising the chances of transmission of the virus to humans.

In India, culling is done in a radius one kilometre from the site of infection, which is called the 'infected zone'. This means all domestic birds present in commercial farms, backyard farms or live bird markets in the infected zone are culled.

Hence both statements are correct.

45. Cherry Blossom Mao Festival is celebrated in:

- A. Manipur
- B. Nagaland
- C. Sikkim
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

In Manipur, the Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was held at Senapati district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.

The Mao area of Senapati district in Manipur is known for Cherry Blossom, a plant which is popularly known as Sakura in Japan.

The Manipur government started organizing the festival every year from 2017 onward.

The festival features the picturesque landscape of Mao town adorned with beautiful Cherry Blossom flowers.

A cherry blossom is a flower of many trees of genus Prunus.

Prunus cerasoides, called wild Himalayan cherry, Indian wild cherry, and sour cherry, is known in Hindi as padam, pajja, or padmakashtha.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

46. With reference to the Eri silk, consider the following statements:

1. Eri silk comes from the caterpillar of *Samia ricini*, found only in southern India
2. The eri silkworm is the only completely domesticated silkworm other than *Bombyx mori*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Assam government will provide khadi shirt, eri shawl and eri stole to Grade IV employees in a phased manner, in a move to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and his movement for Khadi. Eri silk comes from the caterpillar of *Samia ricini*, found in northeast India and some parts of China, Japan.

The name "eri" is derived from the Assamese word "era", which means "castor", as the silkworm feeds on castor plants.

Eri silk is also known as endi or errandi in India.

The woolly white silk is often referred to as the fabric of peace when it is processed without killing the silkworm. This process results in a silk called Ahimsa silk. Moths leave the cocoon and then the cocoons are harvested to be spun.

The eri silkworm is the only completely domesticated silkworm other than *Bombyx mori*. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

47. With reference to the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India recently introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) for Large Value Transactions in Centralised Payment Systems.
2. The LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) for Large Value Transactions in Centralised Payment Systems.

The LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.

It was conceived as a key measure to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems for better risk management post the Global Financial Crisis.

The RBI has now decided to introduce the LEI system for all payment transactions of value Rs.50 crore and above undertaken by entities (non-individuals) using RBI-run Centralised Payment Systems viz. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).

The LEI has been introduced by the RBI in a phased manner for participants in the over the counter (OTC) derivative and non-derivative markets as also for large corporate borrowers. The RBI as the preparation for the wider introduction of LEI across all payment transactions, issued directions to the member banks.

In India, LEI can be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd. (LEIL), which is also recognised as an issuer of LEI by the Reserve Bank under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Hence both statements are correct.

48. Which of the following state is likely to become India's prime producer of vanadium?

- A. Kerala
- B. Tami Nadu
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Arunachal Pradesh is likely to become India's prime producer of vanadium.

Vanadium is a chemical element with the symbol V and atomic number 23. It is a hard, silvery-grey, malleable transition metal.

The elemental metal is rarely found in nature. It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores (iron ore).

Vanadium is a high-value metal used in strengthening steel and titanium.

The largest deposits of vanadium of the world are in China, followed by Russia and South Africa.

China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal in 2017.

India is a significant consumer of vanadium, but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.

According to data provided by the GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) found promising concentrations of vanadium in the palaeo-proterozoic carbonaceous phyllite rocks in the Depo and Tamang areas of Papum Pare district in Arunachal Pradesh.

This was the first report of a primary deposit of vanadium in India, with an average grade of 0.76% V₂O₅ [vanadium pentoxide].

Vanadium mineralisation in Arunachal Pradesh is geologically similar to the "stone coal" vanadium deposits of China hosted in carbonaceous shale. This high vanadium content is associated with graphite, with a fixed carbon content of up to 16%.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

49. With reference to the payment infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme introduced by RBI, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.
2. The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the operationalisation of the payment infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme.

The scheme is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.

An advisory council (AC) under the chairmanship of RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo has been constituted for managing the PIDF.

The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.

The implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).

The PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs 345 crore, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the RBI and Rs 95 crore by the major authorised card networks in the country.

The authorised card networks shall contribute in all Rs 100 crore.

The card issuing banks shall also contribute to the corpus based on the card issuance volume — covering both debit and credit cards — at the rate of `1 and `3 per debit and credit card issued by them, respectively.

Besides, the PIDF shall also receive annual contributions from card networks and card issuing banks.

Hence both statements are correct.

50. VAHAN portal, often mentioned in news, is an initiative of:

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- B. Ministry of Shipping
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Civil Aviation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification to facilitate the issuance of International Driving Permit (IDP) for Indian citizens whose IDP has expired while they are abroad.

There was no mechanism for its renewal while citizens were abroad and their IDP had expired. Now, with this amendment, it is proposed that Indian citizens can apply for renewal through the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad, from where these applications would move to the VAHAN portal in India, to be considered by the respective RTOs.

IDP would be couriered to the citizen at his/her address abroad by the respective RTOs.

This notification also removes the conditions of a Medical Certificate and a valid visa at the time of making the request for the IDP in India.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has set up a central depository called Vahan to store data relating to all vehicles.

Vahan' is the National vehicle registry, which intends to collate all the information available with road transport authorities for easy access by both citizens and regulators.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

51. Consider the following statement about Dzukou Valley

1. Dzukou valley is famous for its sunflower plant
2. It is located at the border of assam and nagaland
3. Blyth's Tragopan which an endangered Nagaland's State Bird is found here.

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Dzukou valley is famous for its dzukou lily flowers and they only found in this valley. Thus statement 1 is incorrect
- It is located at the border of manipur and nagaland. Thus statement 2 is also incorrect.
- This is Often caught in a boundary dispute between Manipur and Nagaland, the Dzukou Valley has been prone to wildfires.
- Dzukou, about 30 km from Kohima, is a sanctuary famous for the endangered Blyth's tragopan – Nagaland's State Bird – and other species of birds and animals. Thus statement 3 is correct.

52. Consider the following regarding Sea Vigil-21

1. It is a biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise.
2. Its inaugural edition of was conducted in January 2019.
3. It also involves custom agencies apart from the Indian Navy.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Sea Vigil-21: The second edition of the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-21' will be conducted on 12-13 January 2021. Its inaugural edition of was conducted in January 2019;

Thus statement 1 and 2 are correct.

It will be undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and will involve all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities. The exercise is being coordinated by the Indian Navy.

Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and other maritime agencies will participate in SEA VIGIL, the conduct of which is also being facilitated by the Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs, Shipping, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries, Customs, State Governments and other agencies of Centre/ State.

Thus statement 3 is correct.

53. With reference to the ‘Sea Vigil-21’, consider the following statements:

1. It will involve all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
2. The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre level exercise TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise] which Indian Navy conducts every two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The second edition of the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise ‘Sea Vigil-21’ will be conducted on 12-13 January 2021.

The exercise, inaugural edition of which was conducted in January 2019; will be undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

It will involve all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

The exercise is being coordinated by the Indian Navy.

The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre level exercise TROPEX [Theatre-level Readiness Operational Exercise] which Indian Navy conducts every two years.

SEA VIGIL and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, including transition from peace to conflict.

Hence both statements are correct.

54. With reference to the farm laws committee, consider the following statements:

1. The committee will not pass an order or punish and submit a report to the Supreme Court.
2. The Supreme Court has recently put a stay on the implementation of the three farm laws until further orders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has put a stay on the implementation of the three farm laws until further orders. It has also set up a committee of agricultural experts to facilitate talks between the Centre and farmers' unions to resolve the impasse.

The members includes

Bhupinder Singh Mann, the national president of the Bhartiya Kisan Union and All India Kisan Coordination Committee;

Dr Parmod Kumar Joshi, an agricultural economist who is also the Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute;

Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices;

Anil Ghanwat, the chief of Shetkari Sanghatana, who in articles written in the media have expressed views in favour of the farm laws.

The Chief Justice said that the committee will not pass an order or punish and submit a report to the Supreme Court. He said the committee is the judicial process in this case.

Hence both statements are correct.

55. India and which of the following country recently signed a MoU for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the areas of Tsunami Early Warning Centre (TEWC) and Early warnings of Sand and Dust storms?

A.U.A.E

B.China

C.Nepal

D.Maldives

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between National Centre of Meteorology (NCM), United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) India.

The MoU provides for:

Exchange of experience/visits in term of scientists, research scholars and specialists, etc. for the purpose of research, training, consultation, focused on climatic information services, satellite data utilization for now casting and tropical cyclones forecasting.

Cooperation to support the Tsunami Early Warning Centre (TEWC) in the form of forecast modelling software, specifically designed to support the Tsunami forecasting operations.

Cooperate at the field of Seismology which includes the study of Seismic activities having the potential to generate Tsunami waves in Arabian Sea and Oman Sea.

Cooperation in Early warnings of Sand and Dust storms through the exchange of knowledge.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

56. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a working group chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash which is related to:

A. Conversion of big Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) into banks

B. Digital lending

C. Review Extant Ownership Guidelines and Corporate Structure for Indian Private Sector Banks

D. None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a working group on digital lending — including online platforms and mobile apps — to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated financial sector as well as by unregulated players.

The working group consists of both internal and external members and is chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI

The working group will

evaluate digital lending activities and assess the penetration and standards of outsourced digital lending activities in RBI regulated entities;

identify the risks posed by unregulated digital lending to financial stability, regulated entities and consumers; and

suggest regulatory changes to promote orderly growth of digital lending.

It will also recommend measures for expansion of specific regulatory or statutory perimeter and suggest the role of various regulatory and government agencies. It will also recommend a robust fair practices code for digital lending players.

The group will submit its report within three months.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

57. With reference to the 5G, consider the following statements:

1. 5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks.

2. 5G mainly works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought inputs from telcos and other industry experts on the sale and use of radio frequency spectrum over the next 10 years, including the 5G bands.

5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks.

5G mainly works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum — all of which have their own uses as well as limitations.

While the low band spectrum has shown great promise in terms of coverage and speed of internet and data exchange, the maximum speed is limited to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second).

The mid-band spectrum, on the other hand, offers higher speeds compared to the low band, but has limitations in terms of coverage area and penetration of signals.

The high-band spectrum offers the highest speed of all the three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength.

Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G has been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (giga bits per second), while, in most cases, the maximum internet data speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.

Hence both statements are correct.

58. With reference to the Open Skies Treaty (OST), consider the following statements:

1. It was signed in 1992 between NATO members and former Warsaw Pact countries following the demise of the Soviet Union.
2. United States and Russia are the active 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Russia announced that it was leaving the Open Skies Treaty (OST).

First proposed in 1955 by former US President Dwight Eisenhower as a means to deescalate tensions during the Cold War, the landmark treaty was eventually signed in 1992 between NATO members and former Warsaw Pact countries following the demise of the Soviet Union.

It went into effect in 2002 and had 35 signatories, including key players US and Russia, along with one non-ratifying member (Kyrgyzstan).

It is an accord between countries that allows participants to fly unarmed reconnaissance flights over any part of their fellow member states.

Under the treaty, a member state can “spy” on any part of the host nation, with the latter’s consent. A country can undertake aerial imaging over the host state after giving notice 72 hours before, and sharing its exact flight path 24 hours before.

In November, the United States left the OST first after accusing Russia of violating the pact—allegations that Russia denied. Moscow has now blamed Washington for its own decision of leaving the treaty.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

59. India and which of the following country recently signed MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Sudan
- D. Kenya

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

India and Japan signed MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies.

The Department of Telecom and Japan's Ministry of Communications will enhance mutual cooperation in the field of 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety etc.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

60. With reference to the Bank Investment Company (BIC), consider the following statements:

1. Setting up a BIC as a holding company or a core investment company was suggested by the P.J. Nayak Committee in its report on 'Governance of Boards of Banks in India'.
2. The report recommended transferring shares of the government in the banks to the BIC which would become the parent holding company of all these banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

With the RBI raising concerns over the issuance of zero-coupon bonds for recapitalisation of public sector banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry is examining other avenues for affordable capital infusion, including setting up of a Bank Investment Company (BIC).

Setting up a BIC as a holding company or a core investment company was suggested by the P.J. Nayak Committee in its report on 'Governance of Boards of Banks in India'.

The report recommended transferring shares of the government in the banks to the BIC which would become the parent holding company of all these banks; as a result of this, all the PSBs would become 'limited' banks.

Hence both statements are correct.

61. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	Wetlands	States
1.	Harike Lake	Punjab
2.	Deepor Beel	Sikkim
3.	Kolleru Lake	Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Winter migratory water birds using the central Asian flyway have started making a beeline to Punjab's Harike wetland, offering a delight for bird lovers.

Harike Wetland also known as "Hari-ke-Pattan", with the Harike Lake in the deeper part of it, is the largest wetland in northern India in the border of Tarn Taran Sahib district and Ferozepur district of Punjab.

The wetland and the lake were formed by constructing the headworks across the Sutlej river in 1953.

The headworks is located downstream of the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers just south of Harike village.

It has been designated as one of the Ramasar sites in India.

Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia. Deepor Beel, is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam, India. It is a permanent freshwater lake.

62. Orvakal greenfield airport, often mentioned in news, is located in:

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Goa
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Directorate general of civil aviation (DGCA) has accorded aerodrome licence for public use to Orvakal greenfield airport on the outskirts of Kurnool city in Andhra Pradesh.

Orvakal is one of 50 low-cost airports proposed across the country to enhance air connectivity to remote areas by grounding no-frills facilities which are energy-efficient with minimum security hold.

The foundation stone for the airport was laid in June 2017 and inaugurated in January 2019. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

63. Furfura pilgrimage site is located in:

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerala
- C. Odisha
- D. West Bengal

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Furfura pilgrimage site is becoming the epicentre of Muslim politics in West Bengal.

Furfura Sharif (also known as Furfura, Phurphura, Furfura Darbar Sharif) is a village in Hooghly District, West Bengal.

It is a holy place for Bengali Muslims.

Before the afternoon prayers, people queue up at the mazar (shrine) of Hazrat Abu Baqar Siddique (1846-1939), a prominent peer (holy person) of the town.

People say that this is the second most prominent mazar in the country after Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

64. Exercise Desert Knight-21, is between Indian Air Force and which of the following country's Air Force?

- A. France
- B. U.S.A
- C. Germany
- D. U.K

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force will conduct a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 20 to 24 Jan 2021. The exercise is unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides.

As part of Indo-French defence cooperation, Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force have held six editions of Air Exercises named 'Garuda', the latest being in 2019 at Air Force Base Mont-de-Marsan, France.

As measures to further the existing cooperation, the two forces have been gainfully utilising available opportunities to conduct 'hop-exercises'.

The French Air and Space Force deployment while ferrying to Australia for Ex Pitchblack in 2018 was hosted by IAF at Air Force Stations Agra and Gwalior for exercise with fighters and MRTT aircraft.

Presently, the French detachment for Ex Desert Knight-21 is deployed in Asia as part of their 'Skyros Deployment' and will ferry in forces to Air Force Station Jodhpur.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

65. Government of India has decided to celebrate the birthday of who among the following personalities as 'PARAKRAM DIWAS'?

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Vallabhbhai Patel
- C. Sarat Chandra Bose
- D. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Government of India has decided to celebrate birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the 23rd day of January every year as 'PARAKRAM DIWAS'.

Objective is to remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation and to inspire people of the country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did.

Gazette Notification for declaring 23rd January as "Parakram Diwas" has been published.

Government of India has decided to celebrate the 125th Birth Anniversary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a befitting manner at national and international level, beginning from 23rd January 2021.

A High Level Committee, headed by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been constituted for deciding the programs, and to supervise and guide the commemoration.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

66. With reference to the bad bank, consider the following statements:

1. The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits, but helps commercial banks clean up their balance sheets and resolve bad loans.
2. The takeover of bad loans is normally below the book value of the loan and the bad bank tries to recover as much as possible subsequently.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

As the problem of non-performing assets (NPAs), or loans on which borrowers have defaulted, persists in a sector stressed by the pandemic, the RBI Governor has agreed to look at a proposal for creating a bad bank.

A bad bank conveys the impression that it will function as a bank but has bad assets to start with.

Technically, a bad bank is an asset reconstruction company (ARC) or an asset management company that takes over the bad loans of commercial banks, manages them and finally recovers the money over a period of time.

The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits, but helps commercial banks clean up their balance sheets and resolve bad loans.

The takeover of bad loans is normally below the book value of the loan and the bad bank tries to recover as much as possible subsequently.

US-based Mellon Bank created the first bad bank in 1988, after which the concept has been implemented in other countries including Sweden, Finland, France and Germany.

Hence both statements are correct.

67. Consider the following statements,

1. “Neighbourhood First” initiative will make India the first country to reach COVID--19 vaccines in the South Asian countries.
2. No requests for vaccines have been made by Pakistan and nor had India decided on this matter.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Vaccine distribution: India will begin to ship out lakhs of doses of the novel coronavirus vaccine to neighbouring countries beginning Wednesday. The first batches expected to reach Bhutan and the Maldives.

“Neighbourhood First” initiative: it will make India the first country to reach COVID--19 vaccines in South Asian countries. Thus statement 1 is correct.
Statement 2 is also factually correct.

68. With reference to AstroSat, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission.
2. It enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously with its five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an IRS-class (Indian Remote Sensing-Class) satellite in a 650-km, near-equatorial orbit.

69. Risa is a customary handwoven cloth mainly used in:

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat
- C. Punjab
- D. Tripura

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has of late made it his style statement to sport the Risa. The Biplab Deb government is now eyeing to promote Risa as the signature textile of Tripura nationally.

Risa is a customary handwoven cloth used by Tripura’s indigenous tribal communities.

The Risa is used as a head gear, stole, female upper cloth or presented to honour a distinguished recipient.

Cultural Significance:

Apart from its beautiful designs, the Risa plays a host of crucial social utilities.

Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given risa to wear when she reaches 12-14 years in an event called Risa Sormani.

It is also used in religious festivals like the Garia Puja, a customary festival of the tribal communities, or as a head turban by male folks during weddings and festivals.

Risa is one of the three parts of a customary Tripuri female attire, the other two being the Rignai and Rikutu.

The Rignai is primarily used to cover lower part of the body and literally translates into ‘to wear’.

The Rituku covers the upper half of the body, wrapping it all around. However, it is also used like a ‘chunri’ or a ‘pallu’ of the Indian saree. It is also used to cover the head of newly married Tripuri women.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

70. With reference to Signal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging service.
2. It cannot be used to make video calls.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Facebook-owned WhatsApp recently updated its privacy policy, triggering a mass digital migration of users from the messaging platform to its rivals. The switch gained momentum after the Elon Musk urged his followers on Twitter to install the Signal app.

Signal is a cross-platform centralized encrypted messaging service developed by the Signal Technology Foundation and Signal Messenger LLC. The non-profit Signal Foundation was launched in 2018 with initial funding of \$50 million from Brian Acton.

It uses the Internet to send one-to-one and group messages, which can include files, voice notes, images and videos. It can also be used to make one-to-one and group voice and video calls.

Signal uses standard cellular telephone numbers as identifiers and secures all communications to other Signal users with end-to-end encryption.

On 7 January 2021, Signal saw a surge in new user registrations due to a WhatsApp privacy policy change and a Signal endorsement by Elon Musk and Edward Snowden via Twitter. Between 12 and 14 January 2021, the number of Signal installations listed on Google Play increased from over 10 million to over 50 million.

On 15 January 2021, due to the surge of new users, Signal was overwhelmed with the new traffic and was down for all users. The service was later restored.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

71. With reference to the ‘Exercise Kavach’, consider the following statements:

1. It will be conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
2. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the only Joint Forces Command of 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

A large scale Joint Military exercise 'Exercise Kavach' involving assets of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard is being conducted in the coming week under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).

The exercise involves synergised application of maritime surveillance assets, coordinated air and maritime strikes, air defence, submarine and landing operations.

Concurrently Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) exercise involving various technical, electronic and human intelligence from three services will be conducted. The tri-services exercise aims to fine tune joint war-fighting capabilities and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.

The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the only Joint Forces Command of the country.

Hence both statements are correct.

72. With reference to the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), consider the following statements:

1. It was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It is designated as a nodal body to coordinate among various scientific bodies to promote domestic scientific research capacities in the Arctic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, India drafted a new Arctic policy that aims at expanding scientific research, sustainable tourism and exploration of mineral oil and gas in the Arctic region.

India has designated Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research to lead scientific research and act as a nodal body to coordinate among various scientific bodies to promote domestic scientific research capacities in the Arctic. Hence, statement 2 is correct. NCPOR was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences on the 25th May 1998. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Earlier known as National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), NCPOR is India's premier R&D institution responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and Southern Ocean realms.

It is the nodal agency for planning, promotion, coordination and execution of the entire gamut of polar and southern ocean scientific research in the country as well as for the associated logistics activities.

73. With reference to Subhas Chandra Bose, consider the following statements:

1. He opposed Motilal Nehru Report on the issue of dominion status for India.
2. He opposed the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. He won the congress presidential elections at Haripura in 1938.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The central government has decided to observe Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti as 'Parakram Diwas' to be celebrated on 23rd January.

He stood for unqualified swaraj (independence), and opposed Motilal Nehru Report which spoke for dominion status for India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

He actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha of 1930 and vehemently opposed the suspension of Civil Disobedience Movement and signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in 1931. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Bose won the congress presidential elections at Haripura in 1938. Again in 1939 at Tripuri, he won the presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitarammayya. Due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress. Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

74. With reference to the “ShramShakti”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a National Migration Support Portal
2. With this, Goa is going to be first destination state of India to set up dedicated migration cell to address diverse issues of migrant workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs launched “ShramShakti”, a National Migration Support Portal at a programme held at Panjim, Goa.

It would effectively help in the smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.

The tribal migration repository, ShramShakti would be able to successfully address the data gap and empower migrant workers who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation.

The various data that will be recorded via Shram Shakti include demographic profile, livelihood options, skill mapping and migration pattern.

He also launched a tribal migration cell, a tribal museum at Goa and “ShramSaathi”, a training manual for migrant workers.

With this, Goa is going to be first destination state of India to set up dedicated migration cell to address diverse issues of migrant workers.

Hence both statements are correct.

75. With reference to the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW), consider the following statements:

1. SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad.
2. This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

DRDO successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from Hawk-I of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the Odisha coast.

The smart weapon was successfully test fired from Indian Hawk-Mk132 of HAL. This was the 9th successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO till now.

SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad.

This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kms. The high precision guided bomb is light weight as compared to weapon system of the same class.

Hence both statements are correct.

76. Rajesh Verma committee, recently seen in news, is related to:

- A. implementation of the Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act.
- B. evaluate governance of board of banks and examine criteria to select directors, as well as their te
- C. assess the functioning of the Indian Monetary system
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Company Law Committee (CLC), headed by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma, has recommended that 12 offences under the LLP Act be decriminalised and that LLPs be allowed to issue NCDs to raise funds with the aim of improving ease of doing business for limited liability partnership (LLP) firms.

Several offences related to timely filings, including annual reports and filings on changes in partnership status of the LLP, not related to fraud have been recommended for decriminalisation.

the panel has recommended that companies be required to pay penalties for non-compliance, instead of fines which are imposed after a partner or the LLP is found guilty of misconduct by a court.

The Registrar of Companies would have the authority to levy penalties for any contravention of provisions of the LLP Act.

The CLC has also recommended that LLPs which are currently not allowed to issue debt securities be permitted to issue non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to facilitate raising of capital and financing operations.

The move is likely to benefit startups and small firms in sectors which require heavy capital investment.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

77. With reference to the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. It is a world heritage site and a Ramsar site.

2. The area is home to nine out of 12 species of kingfishers found in the country as well rare species such as the Goliath heron and the spoon-billed sandpiper.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Indian Sunderbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, is home to 428 species of birds, a recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) states.

The publication, Birds of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, released by the ZSI, not only documents the avifauna of the Sunderbans, but also serves as a comprehensive photographic field guide for the region.

The scientists said of the 428 birds listed, some, like the masked finfoot and the Buffy fish owl, are recorded only from the Sunderbans.

The area is home to nine out of 12 species of kingfishers found in the country as well rare species such as the Goliath heron and the spoon-billed sandpiper.

The Indian Sunderbans, which covers 4,200 sq. km, also includes the Sunderban Tiger Reserve of 2,585 sq. km — home to about 96 royal Bengal tigers (as per the last census in 2020).

It is a world heritage site and a Ramsar site (a wetland site designated to be of international importance).

India has over 1,300 species of birds and if 428 species of birds are from the Sunderbans, it means that one in every three birds in the country is found in the unique ecosystem.

Hence both statements are correct.

78. Recently seen in news, Lunar Sample 76015,143, which weighs 332 grams, was collected by:

- A. Apollo 17
- B. Luna 21

C. ISEE-3

D. Change' 1

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

After taking office as the 46th US President on January 20, Democrat Joe Biden has made a couple of changes to the Oval Office – the commander-in-chief's principal place of business which is visited by the most powerful people in the world.

Among the changes is the addition of a Moon rock– a sample of Earth's natural satellite collected by astronauts of the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972.

Lunar Sample 76015,143, which weighs 332 grams, was collected by Apollo 17 astronaut Ronald Evans and moonwalkers Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan.

Apollo 17 was the last mission to send humans to set foot on the lunar surface.

The rock has been placed in the Oval Office “in symbolic recognition of earlier generations' ambitions and accomplishments, and support for America's current Moon to Mars exploration approach.

Biden is not the first US President to put a Moon rock on display. In 1999 NASA loaned lunar sample 10057,30 to the then-President Bill Clinton for the White House.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

79. Consider the following statements:

1. Risa is a handwoven cloth worn by tribals communities of Tripura
2. Garia Puja is celebrated as a harvest festival by the ethnic tribes in Tripura.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 no 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The State government of Tripura aims to promote Risa nationally as Tripura's signature garment. It is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura.

Risa is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is also used as a turban by men during weddings and festivals.

Risa is a part of traditional Tripuri attire that comprises three parts - risa, rignai and rikutu.

Rignai: It is primarily worn as the lower garment and literally translates into 'to wear'. It can be understood as an indigenous variety of the sari of mainland India.

Rituku: It is mainly used as a wrap, or like a 'chunri' or a 'pallu' of the Indian saree. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given a risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, at age 12 to 14.

It is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities.

The Garia Puja is a major festival in Tripura, held on the last day of the month of Chaitra.

Celebrated as a harvest festival by the ethnic tribes - Tripuris and Reangs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

80. Consider the following statements:

1. In a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) each partner is responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
2. In a partnership firm every partner is not liable jointly for all acts of the firm done while he is a partner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a partnership in which some or all partners (depending on the jurisdiction) have limited liabilities.

In an LLP, each partner is not responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.

The LLP is a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.

Under “traditional partnership firm”, every partner is liable, jointly with all the other partners and also severally for all acts of the firm done while he is a partner. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

81. With reference to the Padma Awards, consider the following statements:

1. It is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields of activities/disciplines.
2. The awards are announced on the occasion of Independence Day every 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

This year the President of India has approved conferment of 119 Padma Awards.

Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian Awards of the country conferred in three categories, namely –

Padma Vibhushan: For Exceptional and distinguished service.

Padma Bhushan: For Distinguished service of high order.

Padma Shri: For distinguished service in any field.

Disciplines in which awarded: It is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields of activities/disciplines.

Eligibility: All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

Timeline: The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

Award committee:

The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.

All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, which is constituted by the PM every year.

The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the PM and the President for approval.

The awardees are then presented a certificate and a medallion. The recipients are also given a small replica of the medallion, which they can wear during any ceremonial/State functions etc., if the awardees so desire.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

82. A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in:

- A. Andaman & Nicobar group of islands
- B. Lakshadweep
- C. Rann of Kutch
- D. Ladakh

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

A large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in Andaman & Nicobar group of islands from 21 – 25 Jan 2021.

The exercise involved participation of Naval ships, amphibious troops of the Army and different types of aircraft from the Air force.

The exercise was aimed at validating India's capabilities to safeguard the territorial integrity of its island territories. It also sought to enhance operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities amongst the three Services.

The exercise involved multi-faceted maritime operations by synergised employment of amphibious assault ships, surveillance platforms, execution of maritime air strikes and complex manoeuvres at sea.

Ex KAVACH for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands formed a part of AMPHEX – 21.

A joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance exercise under the aegis of HQ

Integrated Defence Staff was also run concurrently to achieve Maritime Domain Awareness by employment of a multitude of sensors.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

83. With reference to the 'National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)', consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest comprehensive national Survey on risk factors and health systems preparedness of NCDs.
2. More than one in every four adults and 6.2% adolescents were overweight or obese; almost three out of ten adults had raised blood pressure and 9.3% had raised blood glucose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the 'National Non-communicable Disease Monitoring Survey (NNMS)', the largest comprehensive national Survey on risk factors and health systems preparedness of NCDs.

While two in five adults have three or more risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCD) in India, the status of health system in responding to the disease burden is also underscored.

More than one in every four adults and 6.2% adolescents were overweight or obese; almost three out of ten adults had raised blood pressure and 9.3% had raised blood glucose.

More than two in five adults and one in four adolescents were doing insufficient physical activity and their average daily intake of salt was 8 gms.

One in every three adults and more than one-fourth proportion of men used any form of tobacco and consumed alcohol in past 12 months respectively.

Conducted during the period of 2017–18, The purpose of the survey was to collect reliable baseline data on key indicators (risk factors, select NCDs and health systems response) related to the National NCD monitoring framework and NCD Action Plan.

This is the first of its kind of a comprehensive survey on NCDs using standardised tools and methods, covering the age groups of 15-69 years, males and females residing in urban and rural areas of the country.

Hence both statements are correct.

84. Which of the following reports are released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

1. Investment Trends Monitor Report
2. Global Financial Stability Report
3. Technology and Innovation Report
4. The Least Developed Countries Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body established in 1964.
- It is headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.
- UNCTAD promotes development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

Reports Published:

- Investment Trends Monitor Report
- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report
- Information and Economy Report
- Technology and Innovation Report
- Commodities and Development Report

The Global Financial Stability Report is released by the International Monetary Fund. Hence, option C is correct.

85. Consider the following statements about Green Tax:

1. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will levy a green tax on transport vehicles older than eight years.
2. CNG-vehicles, tractors and harvesters will be charged comparatively lower green tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will levy a green tax on transport vehicles older than eight years at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10% to 25% of road tax. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The revenue collected through the green tax will be kept in a different account and will only be utilised for tackling pollution.

Vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and those running on alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol and LPG and vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvesters and tillers will be exempted from the green tax. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Differential Taxation:

Personal vehicles are proposed to be charged green tax at the time of renewal of registration certification after 15 years.

Public transport vehicles, such as city buses, will be charged lower green tax.

Higher green tax (50% of road tax) will be levied on vehicles being registered in highly polluted cities.

Differential tax will also be charged depending on fuel (petrol/ diesel) and the type of vehicles.

86. Consider the following about Particulate matter 2.5

1. Particulate matter 2.5 refers to tiny particles or droplets in the air that are two and one half microns or less in width
2. Particles in the PM 2.5 size range are able to travel deeply into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs
3. The primarily source of these particles is car, truck, bus and off-road vehicle

Which of the above is/are correct about particulate matter?

- A. 1 and 2 only

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- The term fine particles, or particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5), refers to tiny particles or droplets in the air that are two and one half microns or less in width. Like inches, meters and miles, a micron is a unit of measurement for distance. There are about 25,000 microns in an inch. Thus statement 1 is correct

Thus statement 1 is correct

- Particles in the PM2.5 size range are able to travel deeply into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs. Exposure to fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, runny nose and shortness of breath. Thus statement 2 is correct

- There are outdoor and indoor sources of fine particles.

Outside, fine particles primarily come from car, truck, bus and off-road vehicle (e.g., construction equipment, snowmobile, locomotive) exhausts, other operations that involve the burning of fuels such as wood, heating oil or coal and natural sources such as forest and grass fires. Thus statement 3 is also correct.

87. With reference to the Bharat Parv 2021, consider the following statements:

1. Bharat Parv is being celebrated as part of Republic Day celebrations since 2000.
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Tourism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Bharat Parv 2021, a festival to celebrate the spirit of India has begun. The festival is being organised on a virtual platform www.bharatparv2021.com this year from today till 31st of January.

Bharat Parv is being celebrated as part of Republic Day celebrations since 2016.

Objective: To generate a patriotic fervour, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to popularize the idea of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Organized by: The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other central Ministries.

Duration: 26th to 31st January 2019 (The 5-day event is a part of Republic Day Celebrations).

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

88. Consider the following about OXFAM

1. Oxfam International is a group of independent non-governmental organisations formed in 1995.
2. It aims to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice.
3. The Oxfam International Secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Which of the above statements about OXFAM is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The name “Oxfam” comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942

- Oxfam International is a group of independent non-governmental organisations formed in 1995. Thus statement 1 is correct
- It aims to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice. Thus statement 2 is correct

The Oxfam International Secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat runs offices in Addis Ababa, Oxford, Brussels, Geneva, New York, Moscow and Washington DC. Thus statement 3 is correct

89. Consider the following statement about economic survey

1. Department of economic affairs present economic survey in parliament just after the budget presentation
2. The Economic Survey of India is the flagship biannual document of the Ministry of finance

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

• It is prepared under the guidance of the chief economic advisor of India.[1] This document is presented to both Houses of Parliament during the budget session. Thus statement 1 is incorrect

• The Economic Survey of India is the flagship annual document of the ministry of finance Government of India. The department of economic affairs Ministry of Finance presents the Survey in the parliament every year, just before the union budget thus statement 2 is incorrect

90. Consider the following statements about India Justice Report 2020:

1. It ranks the states on the basis of Judiciary, Police, Prisons and Legal Aid.
2. Tamil Nadu has the highest percentage of women police officers.
3. Sikkim has the highest percentage of women HC Judges while Bihar has no women judges in High Courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The India Justice Report (2020) prepared by the Tata Trusts in collaboration with the Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, DAKSH, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative has been released recently.

The Report assesses the capacity of various states to deliver justice.

The overall ranking is a result of a state's ranking across the four pillars of justice delivery system - Judiciary, Police, Prisons and Legal aid. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Maharashtra was ranked topmost among 18 states for the second time in a row, followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Uttar Pradesh remains last.

Amongst the smaller states, Goa remained at the top and Arunachal Pradesh at the bottom.

Women Ratio in Police Force:

Bihar leads the list of 25 states for employing most women in its police force which is 25.3%. It is the only state to have more than 20% women in the police force. However, women account for only 6.1% in the officer category.

Tamil Nadu has the highest percentage of women police officers (24.8%), followed by Mizoram (20.1%). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Women Ratio in Judiciary:

Overall, only 29% judges in High Courts across the country are women, but no state except Sikkim has over 20% women judges.

Four states - Bihar, Uttarakhand, Tripura and Meghalaya have no woman judges in high courts. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

91. 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' and 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan', was published by:

- A. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Greenpeace
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has released 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' and 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan'.

The documents contains ways and means to guide improved coordination amongst the government, civil society and all relevant stakeholders on the response to cases of stranding, entanglement, injury or mortality of marine mammals and also conservation of marine turtles.

These two documents highlight

actions to be taken for handling stranded animals on shore, stranded or entangled animals in the sea or on a boat,

management actions for improved coordination,

reducing threats to marine species and their habitats,

rehabilitation of degraded habitats,

enhancing people's participation,

advance scientific research and exchange of information on marine mammals and marine turtles and their habitats.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

92. With reference to the Axiom Mission 1 (AX 1), consider the following statements:

1. The Axiom Mission 1 (AX 1) flight is being arranged under a commercial agreement with NASA.
2. AX 1 mission will be the first to use a commercially built spacecraft, the SpaceX Dragon 2.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

A former Israeli fighter pilot, an American technology entrepreneur and a Canadian investor will be part of the crew of the first entirely-private orbital space mission.

The three men are paying \$55 million each to fly aboard a SpaceX rocket for an eight-day visit to the International Space Station, organised by Houston-based spaceflight firm Axiom. The Axiom Mission 1 (AX 1) flight is being arranged under a commercial agreement with NASA.

The mission will be led by former NASA astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria, who now works for Axiom space.

While private citizens have travelled to space before, the AX 1 mission will be the first to use a commercially built spacecraft, the SpaceX Dragon 2, best known for flying its first two crews to the ISS late last year.

Is this the first time civilians have been launched into space

No, private civilians have travelled to the space station before.

Since 2001, Russia has been selling rides to the ISS to wealthy businessmen around the world. They travelled onboard the Russian Soyuz aircraft along with professional cosmonauts and NASA astronauts.

Hence both statements are correct.

93. Consider the following statements with respect to Economic Survey of India:

1. It is compiled and presented by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is submitted to both houses of Parliament during the Budget Session.
3. The Economic Survey is presented as a part of the Budget.

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

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance presents the Economic Survey of India in Parliament every year, just before the Union Budget.

This document is submitted to both houses of Parliament during the Budget Session.

The first Economic Survey of India was presented in 1950-51 as part of the Union Budget. After 1964 it was separated from the Budget and presented each year during the Budget Session before the presentation of the budget.

94. Consider the following regarding Bare necessities index(BNI)

1. It represents the inequalities in access to bare necessities like drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions.
2. Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha and Gujarat were the highest BNI states in 2018.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Bare necessities index(BNI): a Newly constructed Index by the Economic Survey for 2020-21

a. It represents the inequalities in access to bare necessities like drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions continue to exist between urban and rural India despite “widespread” improvements in each of these aspects. Statement 1 is correct.

b. Standing in 2018 according to the Economic Survey: High BNI states include Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat, and lowest in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tripura. In terms of urban-rural divide, all states barring Delhi, Punjab, Goa, Kerala, and Sikkim had medium or low access to bare necessities in their rural areas. In 2012, only rural Delhi had high access to bare necessities. Thus, Statement 2 is incorrect.

95. Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding PM Jan Aarogya Yojana?

- A. It provides healthcare of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year on a family floater basis.
- B. It provides secondary and tertiary care hospitalization through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP).
- C. It fully financed by the government.
- D. It is implemented by all States and Union Territories in India

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

About PMJAY:

Coverage up to ₹5L/family/year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP). Thus statement 1 and 2 are correct.

Implementations: It is implemented by 32 States and Union Territories and in which 24,215 hospitals were empanelled, extended treatments worth ₹7,490 crore (with 1.55 crore hospital admissions). It enhanced health insurance coverage. Thus statement 4 is INCORRECT.

Statement 3 is factually correct.