

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

1. With respect to the draft EIA 2020, consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Opposition parties have claimed that the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) norms 2020 is a regressive departure from the 2006 version it seeks to replace. Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India notified its first EIA norms in 1994, setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources.

Every development project has been required to go through the EIA process for obtaining prior environmental clearance ever since. The 1994 EIA notification was replaced with a modified draft in 2006. Earlier this year, the government redrafted it again to incorporate the amendments and relevant court orders issued since 2006, and to make the EIA “process more transparent and expedient.”

Contentious Provisions of the 2020 draft:

- Linear projects such as roads and pipelines in border areas will not require any public hearing. The ‘border area’ is defined as “area falling within 100 kilometres aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control with bordering countries of India.
- All inland waterways projects and expansion/widening of national highways will be exempt from prior clearance. These include roads that cut through forests and dredging of major rivers.
- It also exempts most building construction projects of built-up area up to 1,50,000 sq. m.
- It also contains provisions for post-facto project clearance and abandoning the public trust doctrine. Projects operating in violation of the Environment Act will now be able to apply for clearance.
- Violations of the provisions has to be reported either by a government authority or the developers themselves. There is no scope for any public complaint about violations. Instead, the reliance is on the violators to disclose, Suo motu, that they broke the law.

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

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

3. Which of the following countries are not one of the members of “QUAD”-the grouping of likeminded democracies?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

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

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

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

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Answer: A

Explanation:

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

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

1. It is a category of voters in Assam whose citizenship is doubtful or under dispute.
2. This category was introduced in 1997 at the time the Election Commission of India (ECI) was revising the state's voter list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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6. Consider the following statements regarding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:

1. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
2. It excludes domestic workers from the protection of the Act.
3. It provides penalty for malicious complaints.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 provides protection to an ‘aggrieved woman’; a woman who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment. It covers every woman at the work place (whether employed or not).

Statement 1 is correct. The act provides that every employer is required to constitute an ‘Internal Complaints Committee’ at all offices and branches with staff strength of 10 or more employees. The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The act provides protection to domestic workers (means a woman who is employed to do the household work in any household for remuneration whether in cash or kind).

Statement 3 is correct. The act provides that if the Internal Committee or the Local Committee arrives at a conclusion that the allegation against the respondent is malicious or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has made the complaint knowing it to be false, it may recommend for a penalty against the complainant.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

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Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall deliver the Special Key Note Address at the USISPF 3rd Annual Leadership Summit on the 3rd September 2020, through video conference. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.

The Theme of the 5-day Summit that began on the 31st of August is “US-India Navigating New Challenges”. The theme covers various subjects such as India’s potential in becoming a Global Manufacturing Hub, Opportunities in India’s Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business to attract FDI in India, Common Opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space, Indo-Pacific Economic issues etc.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

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

It is during Question Hour that Members of Parliament ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries. The questions that MPs ask are designed to elicit information and trigger suitable action by ministries. Prior to Independence, the first question asked of government was in 1893. It was on the burden cast on village shopkeepers who had to provide supplies to touring government officers.

Parliament has comprehensive rules for dealing with every aspect of Question Hour. And the presiding officers of the two houses are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour. Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made. There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall. Question Hour is not scheduled either on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a method widely used to rapidly make millions to billions of copies of a specific DNA sample, allowing scientists to take a very small sample of DNA and amplify it to a large enough amount to study in detail. The majority of PCR methods rely on thermal cycling. Thermal cycling exposes reactants to repeated cycles of heating and cooling to permit different temperature-dependent reactions – specifically, DNA melting and enzyme-driven DNA replication. PCR employs two main

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reagents – primers (which are short single strand DNA fragments known as oligonucleotides that are a complementary sequence to the target DNA region) and a DNA polymerase.

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) are established under this programme.
- Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Ayushman Bharat was launched to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017.
- It is a comprehensive need-based health care service and has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- It aims to address health at primary, secondary and tertiary level. It comprises of two inter-related components, which are –
 - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

Features of Ayushman Bharat

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government. It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India. This can be used by one or all members of the family.
- It provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service i.e. at the hospital.
- The Pre-existing diseases are covered from the very first day.
- It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15-days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- A beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital for cashless treatment.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released 'The State of Young Child in India' report, a comprehensive account of the challenges related to early child development in India. The report has been prepared by *Mobile Creches* a policy advocacy organisation which works with the underprivileged children across India.

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

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

Based on ranking and values on the Young Child Outcome Index (YCOI), the report named Kerala, Goa, Tripura and Tamil Nadu to be among the top performers, while eight states-- Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar-- with scores below the national average lagged behind.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

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Explanation:

Union Minister of Finance announced the 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states. Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015. Till date, State Rankings have been released for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017-18.

The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc. The ranking this time gives full weightage to the feedback from over thirty thousand respondents at the ground level, who gave their opinion about the effectiveness of the reforms.

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

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

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

A report submitted to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in 2016 had recommended the removal of the Wagon Tragedy victims and Malabar Rebellion leaders Ali Musliyar and Variamkunnath Ahmad Haji, and Haji's two brothers from a book on martyrs of India's freedom struggle.

The report sought the removal of names of 387 'Moplah rioters' from the list of martyrs. The book, Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle 1857-1947, was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

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

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

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

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Answer: C

Explanation:

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

An FCRA licence is mandatory for a non-profit organisation to receive foreign funds. At least two U.S.-based Christian donors are also under the Ministry's scanner for funding NGOs and groups here. The reasons for the suspension or violation was not specified.

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

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

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

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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

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Need for speed

A few features of the hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle

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



Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee headed by K.V. Kamath on restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Key Points Objective: The Committee is tasked to recommend parameters for one-time restructuring of corporate loans. ☐ The Committee will formulate sector-specific resolution plans for all accounts with total loan exposure of Rs. 1,500 crore and above. Background: In the recent Monetary Policy report, RBI has allowed banks to restructure loans to reduce the rising stress on incomes and balance sheets of large corporates, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as well as individuals. Reasons: A large number of firms that otherwise maintain a good track record are facing the challenge as their debt burden is becoming disproportionate, relative to their cash flow generation abilities. ☐ This can potentially impact their long-term viability and pose significant financial stability risks if it becomes widespread. It may also lead to an increase in Non-Performing Assets. ¾ Eligibility: Only those borrowers will be eligible for restructuring whose accounts were classified as standard and not in default for more than 30 days with any lending institution as on 1st March, 2020. ☐ All other accounts will be considered for restructuring under the Prudential Framework issued by the RBI in 2019, or the relevant instructions as applicable to specific categories of lending institutions where the prudential framework is not applicable. The restructuring efforts may or may not include a moratorium on instalment repayments. RBI has left the decision of moratorium on banks, with an eye on averting such loans from slipping into nonperforming assets.

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

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

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

It will improve regional connectivity and mobility in India's national capital region (NCR). The first tranche loan will support construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.

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

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

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

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

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

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

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

1. The Supreme Court has recently stayed reservation for Maratha community in government jobs and educational institutions in Maharashtra.
2. Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 33 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

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Explanation:

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

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

Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act originally provided 16 per cent reservation for Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs. The law was challenged before Bombay High Court which in June 2019 upheld its validity but reduced the quota to 12 per cent in educational institutions and 13 per cent in jobs.

Appeals were filed before Supreme Court stating that the reservation would lead to breach of the 50 per cent cap laid down by the Apex Court in its 1992 judgment of Indra Sawhney versus Union of India. Maharashtra government had on August 26th asked the Court to place the matter before a larger bench considering the fact that it involves determination of substantial legal questions.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

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

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

The policy has laid out following goals and objectives:

- To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25Bn) including export of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
- To develop a competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

- To reduce dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives.
- To promote export of defence products.
- To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation and creates Indian IP ownership.
- The Policy brings out multiple strategies under the following focus areas:
 - Procurement Reforms
 - Indigenization & Support to MSMEs/Startups
 - Optimize Resource Allocation
 - Investment Promotion, FDI & Ease of Doing Business
 - Innovation and R&D
 - Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
 - Quality Assurance & Testing Infrastructure
 - Export Promotion

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

26. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

Rafale Fighter Air craft has been formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a formal function at Air Force Station, Ambala. The first five Rafale aircraft which arrived at Air Force Station, Ambala from France on 27th July 2020, would be part of 17 Squadron, the “Golden Arrows”.

The multirole and one of the most advanced flying machines, Rafale would be part of 17-Squadron, which is popularly known as the “Golden Arrows”, at the Ambala airbase. The second batch of aircrafts is expected to arrive in India by the end of November this year.

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

The state-of-the-art 4.5 Generation Rafale jet can reach almost double the speed of sound, with a top speed of 1.8 Mach. With its multi-role capabilities, including electronic warfare, air defence, ground support and in-depth strikes, the Rafale lends air superiority to the Indian Air Force. The Rafale jets also come with SCALP, the air-to-ground cruise missile with a range over 300 km. It is a long-range deep strike missile.

Hence both statements are correct.

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

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Forests
4. Water

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

29. Consider the following statement-

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

Select the correct option-

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

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

It is being launched in 21 States of the country with an investment of Rs 20,000 Crores which would be spent in the next 4-5 Years. The scheme provides for new infrastructure, modern equipment and access to new markets to the fish producers, along with increased opportunities for through farming as well as other means.

This is the first time after independence, that such a major scheme has been launched in the country for the fisheries sector. The goal is also to double fish exports in the coming 3-4 years. This will create millions of new employment opportunities only in the fisheries sector. It also aims at enhancing fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne by 2024-25.

Hence both statements are correct.

30. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge'. The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely; (i) Energy and Green Buildings, (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity, (iii) Mobility and Air Quality, (iv) Water Management and (v) Waste Management. The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

Streets for People Challenge:

- The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making the cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.
- The Challenge builds on the advisory issued by the Ministry for the holistic planning for pedestrian-friendly market spaces, earlier this year.
- The Challenge will support cities across the country to develop a unified vision of streets for people in consultation with stakeholders and citizens.

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

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

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

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

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

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

- A. a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers
- B. an education app proposed in National Education Policy.
- C. an app used for COVID-19 "contact tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment".
- D. None of the above

Answer:A

Explanation:

PM Modi launched the e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. E-Gopala app will be a digital medium which will help livestock owners to choose advanced livestock's. This app will give all information related to productivity, health and diet to the cattle owners.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

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

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Union Minister of Culture informed Lok Sabha about an expert committee which has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture. An expert committee has been set up for conducting holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture to since 12000 years before present and its interface with other cultures of the world. The committee is chaired by K.N. Dikshit (Chairman of Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi and former Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

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

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

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

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

- a trade union in any foreign country or territory;
- a foreign trust or a foreign foundation;
- a society, club or other association or individuals formed or registered outside India;
- a citizen of a foreign country.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Answer: A

Explanation:

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

Major amendments proposed in the Electricity Act are as follows:

- **Direct Benefit Transfer:** It is proposed that tariff be determined by Commissions without taking into account the subsidy, which will be given directly by the government to the consumers.
- **Establishment of Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority:** A Central Enforcement Authority headed by a retired Judge of the High Court is proposed to be set-up with powers of the Civil Court to enforce performance of contracts related to purchase or sale or transmission of power between a generating, distribution or transmission companies.
- **Establishment of adequate Payment Security Mechanism for scheduling of electricity:** It is proposed to empower Load Dispatch Centres to oversee the establishment of adequate payment security mechanism before scheduling dispatch of electricity, as per contracts.
- **Strengthening of the Appellate Tribunal (APTEL):** It proposes to increase the strength of APTEL to 7 apart from the Chairperson so that multiple benches can be set-up to facilitate quick disposal of cases. It is also proposed to further empower the APTEL to enforce its decisions.
- **National Renewable Energy Policy:** It is proposed to provide for a policy document for the development of electricity from renewable sources of energy. A minimum percentage of purchase of electricity from hydro sources of energy is to be specified by the Commissions.
- **Cross border trade in Electricity:** Provisions have been added to facilitate and develop trade in electricity with other countries.
- **Franchisees and Distribution sub licensees:** Distribution Companies may engage Franchisees or Sub-Distribution Licensees to distribute electricity on its behalf in a particular area. However, it will be the DISCOM which shall be the licensee.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

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

- A. UAE and Israel
- B. US and Iran
- C. Turkey and Israel
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

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

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

1. The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.
2. The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020.

- The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce.
- It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations.
- The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically. The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act. Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.
- The Bill basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition. This will supplement the existing MSP procurement system which is providing stable income to farmers.
- It will certainly pave the way for creating One India, One Agriculture Market and will lay the foundation for ensuring golden harvests for our hard working farmers.

Hence both statements are correct.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

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

BECA is an important precursor to India acquiring armed unmanned aerial vehicles such as the Predator-B from the USA. Predator-B uses spatial data for accurate strikes on enemy targets. BECA is one of the four foundational military communication agreements between the two countries. The other three being GSOMIA, LEMOA, CISMOA. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

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

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

Other Reports Published by World Bank:

- Global Economic Prospects
- Ease of Doing Business
- World Development Report

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

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

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

It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers. This legislation will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to national and global markets, and in agricultural infrastructure.

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

Farmers have been provided adequate protection. Sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land is totally prohibited and farmers' land is also protected against any recovery. Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear time lines for redressal.

Hence only statement 2 is correct.

41. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Answer: D

Explanation:

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

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

42. Which of following institutions are the constituent bodies of World Bank Group?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

World Bank Group

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

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

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) provides investment, advice, and asset management to companies and governments. The Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA) insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

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

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

The MSP of wheat has been increased by 50 rupees and now stands at one thousand 975 rupees per quintal whereas the MSP for Masoor has been hiked by 300 rupees. MSP for Mustard and Chana has been increased by 225 rupees. Increase in Jowar's MSP is by 75 rupees while for Safflower the hike is by 112 rupees per quintal.

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

Hence both statements are correct.

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

- A.Maldives
- B.Singapore
- C.Iran
- D.Pakistan

Answer:A

Explanation:

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

This ferry service being operated by the Shipping Corporation of India will run twice a month and will provide a cost effective direct and alternate means of transportation of goods between India and Maldives. This direct cargo service will further cement the close ties between India and Maldives by enhancing people-to-people contact and boosting bilateral trade.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

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

1. Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal.
2. Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award.
3. Provision for RE-Skilling fund has been made in the law for the first time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

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

- Provision for two members instead of one member in the Industrial Tribunal. In case of absence of one member, work can still be undertaken smoothly.
- Provision for taking the matter straight to the Tribunal in case the dispute is not resolved at conciliation stage. At present, the case is referred to the Tribunal by the appropriate Government.
- Implementation of award in 30 days after Tribunal award.

After recognition of Fixed Term Employment, workers will get the option of Fixed Term Employment instead of contract labour. Under this, they would get benefits of hours of work, salary, social security and other welfare benefits like a Regular Employee. With the objective of better and effective participation of Trade Unions, a provision for “Negotiating Union” and “Negotiating Council” has been made for undertaking negotiation on any dispute.

Provision has been made for giving recognition to Trade Unions at Central and State level. This recognition has been given in the labour laws for the first time and after this recognition, Trade Unions would be able to contribute more affirmatively and more effectively at the Central and State level. Provision for RE-Skilling fund has been made in the law for the first time. Its aim would be to re-skill those workers who have been fired from their jobs, so that they are easily able to get employment again.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

1. The facility of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) would now be provided in all 740 districts.
2. Employees' Provident Fund Organization's (EPFO) coverage would be applicable on all establishments having 10 workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed the Social Security Code, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Work to bring newer forms of employment created with the changing technology like "platform worker or gig worker" into the ambit of social security has been done in the Social Security Code.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Provision for Gratuity has been made for Fixed Term Employee and there would not be any condition for minimum service period for this.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

47. With reference to the Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), consider the following statements:

1. The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armored vehicles.
2. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from gun of MBT Arjun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test fired from MBT Arjun Tank at KK Ranges, Ahmednagar on 22nd Sep 2020.

In these tests, the ATGM successfully defeated a target located at 3 km. Laser guided ATGMs lock and track the targets with the help of laser designation to ensure precision hit accuracy.

The missile employs a tandem HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from gun of MBT Arjun.

Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune, and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) Dehradun have developed the missile.

Hence both statements are correct.

48. With reference to World Risk Index 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It assesses the vulnerability of the external debt of a country.
2. It is released by the World Economic Forum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

D. Neither 1 and 2

Answer:D

Explanation:

The World Risk Index is calculated on a country-by-country basis, through the multiplication of exposure and vulnerability and describes the disaster risk for various countries and regions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It indicates which countries are in the greatest need to strengthen measures for coping with and adapting to extreme natural events.

According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India is 'poorly prepared' to deal with 'climate reality', due to which it is vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.

It is part of the World Risk Report 2020 released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), BündnisEntwicklungHilft and the University of Stuttgart in Germany. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

49. Which of the following are identified as the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)?

1. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
2. General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)
3. The New India Assurance Co.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and The New India Assurance Co. as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21.

Given the nature of operations and their systemic importance, the regulator has asked the three public sector insurers to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

As D-SIIs, they will also be subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision, IRDAI said in a statement.

D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Their continued functioning is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy.

D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are too big or too important to fail. Such a perception and the expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions and increase the possibility of distress in future.

Size in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management are among the parameters on which the insurers are identified. IRDAI said it will list D-SIIs on an annual basis.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

50. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. It is mandated to recommend the minimum support prices (MSPs) to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is not any statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It came into existence in January 1965.

Statement 2 is correct. It is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) for government procurement to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

51. Which of the following mountain pass(s) is/are in the Union Territory of Ladakh?

1. Rezang La
2. Nathu La
3. Khardung La

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Answer:C

Explanation:

Option 1 is correct. Rezang La is a mountain pass on the south-eastern approach to Chushul Valley in the union territory of Ladakh. A major battle was fought between Indian and Chinese forces in 1962 at Rezang La.

Option 2 is incorrect. Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Option 3 is correct. Khardung La is a mountain pass in the Leh district of the union territory of Ladakh. The pass on the Ladakh Range is north of Leh and is the gateway to the Shyok and Nubra valleys.

52. Consider the following statements regarding the PM- Urja Suraksha evamUtthaanMahabhiyaan (PM KUSUM):

1. Renewable power plants will be setup by individual farmers, cooperatives, panchayats, farmer producer organizations (FPO) on their barren or cultivable lands.
2. Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar pumps.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

The PM KUSUM scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.

The Scheme consists of three components:

Component A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants of individual plant size up to 2 MW.

-Renewable power plants of capacity 500 KW to 2 MW will be setup by individual farmers/cooperatives/panchayats /farmer producer organisations (FPO) on their barren or cultivable lands. The power generated will be purchased by the DISCOMs at Feed in tariffs determined by respective SERC.

Component B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps of individual pump.

-Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar Agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.

Component C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

-Individual farmers will be supported to solarise pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP.

For both Component-B and Component-C, central financial assistance (CFA) of 30% of the benchmark cost or the tender cost, whichever is lower, will be provided. The State Government will give a subsidy of 30%; and the remaining 40% will be provided by the farmer.

53. Consider the following statements regarding the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI):

1. It is a direct measure of the retail inflation prevalent in the economy.
2. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change in the economic condition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. The purchasing managers' index (PMI) is an economic indicator that surveys purchasing managers at businesses that make up a given sector. The most common PMI surveys are the manufacturing PMI and the services PMI.

The purchasing managers' index consists of several different surveys that are compiled into a single numerical result depending on one of several possible answers to each question.

The most common elements include: New orders, Factory output, Employment, Suppliers' delivery times, Stocks of purchases.

The most common answers include: Improvement, No change, Deterioration.

Statement 2 is correct. The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100. A PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared with the previous month. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change. The further away from 50 the greater the level of change.

54. Which of the following country(s) has/have recently proposed a Supply Chain Resilience in Indo-Pacific initiative?

1. United States of America
2. Japan
3. Australia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Answer:B

Explanation:

Australia-India-Japan Economic Ministers trilateral meeting proposed an initiative for Supply chain resilience in the Indo- Pacific.

The joint statement reads “In light of the COVID-19 crisis and the recent global-scale changes in the economic and technological landscape, the Ministers underscored the necessity and potential to enhance the resiliency of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region.

Recognizing the pressing need for regional cooperation on supply chain resilience in the Indo- Pacific, the Ministers shared their intention to work toward the launch of a new initiative to achieve the objective through cooperation. They instructed their officials to promptly work out the details of the new initiative for its launch later this year. The Ministers noted the important role of business and academia in realizing the objective.”

55. Consider the following statements regarding Forest Cover of India:

1. The area under Very Dense Forest (VDF) is more than that under the Open Forest.
2. Uttarakhand has the highest area under forest cover among the states through which Ganga River flows.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. Area under Open Forest is much higher than under Very Dense Forest (VDF) in India.

–Very Dense Forest: All lands with tree canopy density of 70% and above.

–Moderately Dense Forest: All lands with tree canopy density of 40% and more but less than 70%.

–Open Forest: All lands with tree canopy density of 10% and more but less than 40%.

–Scrub: Degraded forest lands with canopy density less than 10%.

Statement 2 is correct. The Ganga River passes through the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, among which Uttarakhand has highest area under forest cover.

Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

56. What is Novichok that was in news recently?

- A. A potential COVID-19 vaccine
- B. A toxic nerve agent
- C. A newly discovered galaxy
- D. A bacterium infecting cattle population in Africa

Answer:B

Explanation:

The name Novichok means “newcomer” in Russian, and applies to a group of advanced nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s.

They were known as fourth-generation chemical weapons and were developed under a Soviet programme codenamed Foliant.

Novichok agents have similar effects to other nerve agents – they act by blocking messages from the nerves to the muscles, causing a collapse of many bodily functions.

While some Novichok agents are liquids, others are thought to exist in solid form. This means they could be dispersed as an ultra-fine powder.

Nerve agents enter the body primarily through the respiratory tract, although they may be absorbed through the eyes or skin. In the liquid state, nerve agents are hazardous via skin or eye contact and through ingestion. Generally, all nerve agents are highly toxic and fast acting.

Britain says Russia used Novichok to poison former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the British city of Salisbury two years ago.

Germany says Novichok was used to poison Alexei Navalny, a critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

57. Consider the following statements:

1. The Gravitational waves, that are theorized to be disturbances in the curvature of space-time, have never been detected in human history.
2. A black hole is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself and the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing except light can escape.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Statement 1 is incorrect. A gravitational wave is an invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripple in space. Gravitational waves travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). These waves squeeze and stretch anything in their path as they pass by. A gravitational wave is an invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripple in space.

In 2015, scientists detected gravitational waves for the very first time. They used a very sensitive instrument called LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). These first gravitational waves happened when two black holes crashed into one another. The collision happened 1.3 billion years ago.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A black hole is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself and the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape. Black holes emerge from the explosive demise of certain large stars, but some are truly gargantuan and are billions of times the mass of our Sun.

Black holes are detected from the way they influence their surroundings, they produce observable gravitational waves as they spiral in to each other.

Scientists from LIGO and Virgo have detected the largest collision between two black holes to date, which appears to have created an “intermediate-mass” black hole.

LIGO-VIRGO collaboration operates three super-sensitive gravitational wave-detection systems in America and Europe.

58. The ‘two plus two dialogue’ has been in news recently, which of the following Minister(s) take part in the dialogue?

1. Minister of Defense
2. Minister of External Affairs
3. Minister of Commerce & Industry

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

A ‘two plus two dialogue’ is a term, adopted in foreign parleys, used for installation of a dialogue mechanism between two countries’ defence and external affairs ministries.

Government of India’s Ministers of Defense and External Affairs have in past held the ‘two plus two dialogue’ with Japan and United States. Secretary level 2+2 dialog have been held with Australia.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

59. Consider the following statements regarding the Accelerating CCS Technologies (ACT) initiative:

1. It is an international initiative to facilitate research development in CO₂ capture, transport, utilization and storage.
2. India is member of the ACT initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Accelerating CCUS Technologies (ACT) is an initiative to facilitate the emergence of CO₂ Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) via transnational funding of projects aimed at accelerating and maturing CCUS technology through targeted innovation and research activities.

ACT is an ERA NET Cofund, which is a tool established by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation.

Statement 2 is correct. The ACT members are funding agencies from: The Alberta province in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Nordic Region, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and the USA.

Department of Science & Technology (DST) recently invited proposals from Indian researchers in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS) under ACT initiative.

60. Consider the following statements regarding the African trypanosomiasis:

1. It is transmitted by the tsetse fly which is found only in Africa.
2. It is not a fatal disease and has a zero mortality rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. There are two types of African trypanosomiasis (also called sleeping sickness); each is named for the region of Africa in which they were found historically.

East African trypanosomiasis is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*. West African trypanosomiasis is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*. Both types of African trypanosomiasis are transmitted by the tsetse fly which is found only in rural Africa.

Statement 2 is incorrect. East and West African trypanosomiasis are eventually fatal if not treated.

Progressive confusion, personality changes, and other neurologic problems occur after infection has invaded the central nervous system (second stage). If left untreated, the illness becomes worse and death will occur within months.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that Togo has become the first country in Africa to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis.

61. Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Aligned Movement:

1. The fulfillment of Bandung Principles is the essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership.
2. India and Pakistan both are members of the NAM.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Bandung Asian-African Conference is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement. This Conference was held in Bandung on April 18-24, 1955 and gathered 29 Heads of States.

The principles that would govern relations among large and small nations, known as the “Ten Principles of Bandung”, were proclaimed at that Conference. Such principles were adopted later as the main goals and objectives of the policy of non-alignment.

The fulfillment of those principles became the essential criterion for Non-Aligned Movement membership; it is what was known as the “quintessence of the Movement”

Statement 2 is correct. India and Pakistan both are NAM members.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Pakistan has participated in the deliberation of NAM as a guest until its assumption of full membership during 1979 Havana Summit.

62. The 'Real Mango' software has been in news recently, what does it relate to?

- A. Identifying different mango varieties through pictures
- B. Illegal software for railway ticket booking
- C. Geo-locator software for various crop varieties
- D. Contact tracing software developed by IIT Delhi

Answer:B

Explanation:

'Rare Mango/Real Mango' is illegal software for railway ticket booking that has been busted by the Railway Protection Force.

The software logs in to the IRCTC website through multiple IRCTC Ids. The illegal software is sold through a five-tiered structure with the system admin receiving payment in bitcoins.

It has been found that it bypasses captcha, synchronises bank OTP with the help of a mobile app and feeds it to the requisite form to book tickets automatically. It also auto-fills the passenger and payment details in the forms, he said.

63. Which of the following mountain pass(s) are located in Ladakh UT?

- 1. Kilik Pass
- 2. Kongka Pass
- 3. Mintaka Pass

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

All of the above are in Ladakh UT.

The Mintaka Pass is a mountain pass in the Karakorum Mountains, between Gilgit-Balistan (Pak administered) and Xinjiang in China.

The Kilik Pass, west of Mintaka Pass is a high mountain pass in the Karakorum Mountains between Gilgit-Balistan and Xinjiang in China. The two passes were, in ancient times, the two main access points into the Upper Hunza Valley from the north.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

The Kongka Pass or Kongka La is a high mountain pass of the Chang-Chemno Range on the Line of Actual Control between India and China. China considers the Kongka Pass as its boundary with India, whereas India regards Lanak Pass further east as the boundary.

64. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020' from UNICEF:

1. Nigeria and India alone account for almost a third of all under-five deaths in 2019.
2. The under-five mortality rate saw more than fifty per cent reduction from 1990 to 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

The recent 'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2020' from UNICEF and partners in the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), shows the full scope of child mortality rates across the world – from newborns to adolescents, including for the first time this year, estimates for youth aged 15–24 years – as well as the progress made toward meeting the SDG targets by 2030.

The under-five mortality rate was reduced from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 38 deaths in 2019—a 59 per cent reduction (see Table 1). One in every 11 children died before reaching their fifth birthday in 1990. By 2019, that number was reduced to 1 in 27.

Nearly half (49 per cent) of all under-five deaths in 2019 occurred in just five countries: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia. Nigeria and India alone account for almost a third.

The under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined to 34 in 2019 from 126 in 1990.

65. Consider the following statements regarding the EASE 2.0 Index:

1. It provides Public Sector Banks a comparative evaluation showing where banks stand on the Reforms Agenda.
2. It has been released by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) Reforms Index independently measures progress on the Public Sector Banks (PSB) Reforms Agenda.

Statement 2 is incorrect. EASE 2.0 Index Results has been released recently by the Indian Banking Association (IBA). Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the 'Top Performing Banks' category according to the EASE 2.0 Index Results.

As part of the EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their door step through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App, was inaugurated recently by the Finance Minister.

66. India has signed military logistics support agreements with which of the following countries?

- 1. Singapore
- 2. Japan
- 3. France

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

Mostly, logistics agreements are administrative arrangements which help to facilitate the replenishment of fuel, rations, spares (where required), and berthing and maintenance for the other nations' warships, military aircraft and troops during routine port calls, joint exercises and training carried out in each other's countries as well as during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

India has signed several military logistics support agreements with partner countries:

- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the United States (US) in August 2016.
- Implementing Arrangement Concerning Mutual Coordination, Logistics and Services Support with Singapore in June 2018.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

-Agreement for the Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support between the Armed Forces with France in March 2018.

-Agreement to Extend Logistical Support to each other's navies with the Republic of Korea (ROK) in September 2019.

-Agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Indian Armed Forces and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan recently.

67. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

1. It aims for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population.
2. It envisages establishment of integrated cattle development centres 'Gokul Grams' to develop indigenous breeds.
3. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented through the Livestock Development Boards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) aims for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in the breeding tract and genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population.

The scheme comprises of two components namely National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB) and National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP).

Statement 2 is correct. Rashtriya Gokul Mission components:

-Integrated cattle development centres 'Gokul Grams' to develop indigenous breeds including upto 40% nondescript breeds.

-Establishment of Field Performance Recording (FPR) in the breeding tract.

-Implementation of Pedigree Selection Programme for the Indigenous Breeds with large population.

-Establishment of Breeder's Societies: Gopalan Sangh.

-Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

-Incentive to farmers maintaining elite animals of indigenous breeds.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

-Award to Farmers (Gopal Ratna) and Breeders Societies (Kamadhenu)

Statement 3 is correct. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented through the State Implementing Agency (SIA viz. Livestock Development Boards).

68. Which of the following is/are immunogenicity evaluation tests?

1. ELISA test
2. Plaque reduction neutralization test

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Both are immunogenicity evaluation tests.

Immunogenicity is the ability of a foreign substance, such as an antigen, to provoke an immune response in the body of a human or other animal. It is the ability to induce a humoral and/or cell-mediated immune responses.

ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) is a plate-based assay technique designed for detecting and quantifying soluble substances such as peptides, proteins, antibodies, and hormones.

The plaque-reduction neutralization test (PRNT) is a serological test which measures virus-specific neutralizing antibody titers.

69. Which of the following organization has released the Living Planet Report 2020?

- A. World Wide Fund for Nature
- B. International Union for Conservation of Nature
- C. Conservation International
- D. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Answer:A

Explanation:

The Living Planet Report, WWF's flagship publication released every two years, is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Through multiple indicators including the Living Planet Index (LPI), provided by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), it shows an average 68% fall in almost 21,000 wildlife populations between 1970 and 2016.

The 2020 report finds that the highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 per cent, then in North America at 52.5 per cent, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 per cent, Africa at 45.9 per cent and then Asia at 43 per cent.

India has lost nearly one-third of its natural wetlands to urbanization, agricultural expansion and pollution over the last four decades and WWF India's report on Water Stewardship for Industries revealed that 14 out of 20 river basins in India are already water stressed and will be moving to extreme water scarcity by 2050.

70. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Standards Collaboration (GSC):

1. It is a voluntary organization for enhancing global cooperation regarding telecommunications standards development.
2. No organization from India is a member of GSC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. GSC is an unincorporated voluntary organization dedicated to enhancing global cooperation and collaboration regarding communications standards and the related standards development environment.

GSC is not a standards development organization and therefore will not develop standards. GSC events provide a strategic opportunity for dialogue among senior officials from national, regional and international standards bodies in support of the work of ITU (International Telecommunication Union).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) is a constituent Standards Development Organisation (SDO) of Global Standards Collaboration (GSC).

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

1. Manufacturing sector has highest weightage in IIP calculation.
2. Base year for current IIP calculations is 2011-12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

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

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

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

72. The proposed Kra Isthmus canal would connect which of the following water bodies?

- A. Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific Ocean
- B. Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara
- C. Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean
- D. Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea

Answer:D

Explanation:

The Thai Canal or Kra Isthmus Canal is a project that would connect the Gulf of Thailand with the Andaman Sea across the Kra Isthmus in southern Thailand.

The canal would provide an alternative to transit through the Straits of Malacca and shorten transit for shipments of oil to Japan and China.

73. Which of the following International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions have been ratified by India?

1. Worst forms of Child Labour Convention
2. Equal Remuneration Convention
3. Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organized Convention

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:A

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

India is a founder member of the International Labour Organization, which came into existence in 1919. At present the ILO has 186 Members.

The eight Core Conventions of the ILO (also called fundamental/human rights conventions) are:

- Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
- Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
- Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
- Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)

(The above Six have been ratified by India)

- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)

(These two have not been ratified by India)

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Phosphine gas:

1. It is a colorless flammable gas.
2. It is an artificially produced gas and does not occur naturally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Phosphine is a colorless, flammable, and explosive gas at ambient temperature.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It is a natural gaseous carrier of phosphorus in its biogeochemical cycles, has been found ubiquitously present in the environment. Small amounts occur naturally from the breakdown of organic matter.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Recent discovery of phosphine on Venus has sparked debate on presence of life outside Earth. On rocky planets such as Venus and Earth, phosphine can only be made by life—whether human or microbe.

Phosphine is manufactured as an agricultural fumigant, is used in the semiconductor industry, and is a byproduct of meth labs.

But phosphine is also made naturally by some species of anaerobic bacteria—organisms that live in the oxygen-starved environments of landfills, marshlands, and even animal guts.

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Contempt of Court:

1. Scandalizing the Court is a criminal offence in India.
2. Supreme Court and High Courts derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 divides contempt into civil and criminal contempt.

–Civil contempt refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.

–Criminal contempt includes any act or publication which: (i) ‘scandalises’ the court, or (ii) prejudices any judicial proceeding, or (iii) interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

‘Scandalising the Court’ broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

Statement 2 is correct. The superior courts (Supreme Court and High Courts) derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

Article 129 and 215 provide that Supreme Court and every High Court (respectively) shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

76. Where is the Spalte Glacier located?

- A. Antarctica
- B. Siberia
- C. Alaska
- D. Greenland

Answer:D

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

Nioghalvfjerdingsfjorden or 79N is roughly 80km long by 20km wide and is the floating front end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream – where it flows off the land into the ocean to become buoyant.

At its leading edge, the glacier splits in two, with a minor offshoot turning directly north. It's this offshoot, or tributary, called Spalte Glacier, that has now disintegrated.

The ice feature was already heavily fractured in 2019; this summer's warmth has been its final undoing. Spalte Glacier has become a flotilla of icebergs.

77. India's Forex Reserve comprises of which of the following assets?

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs) and India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose to reach a lifetime high of \$542.013 billion in the week ended September 4.

78. Consider the following statements regarding the Solar Cycle 25:

1. It has concluded in 2019 and the Solar Cycle 26 has begun.
2. The beginning of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, when the Sun has the most sunspots.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

The solar cycle is the cycle that the Sun's magnetic field goes through approximately every 11 years. This means that the Sun's north and south poles switch places. Then it takes about another 11 years for the Sun's north and south poles to flip back again.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Recently, scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA announced their predictions about the new solar cycle, called Solar Cycle 25, which they believe has begun.

The Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, an international group of experts co-sponsored by NASA and NOAA, announced that solar minimum occurred in December 2019, marking the start of a new solar cycle. Because our Sun is so variable, it can take months after the fact to declare this event. Scientists use sunspots to track solar cycle progress.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The beginning of a solar cycle is a solar minimum, or when the Sun has the least sunspots. Over time, solar activity and the number of sunspots increase.

The middle of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, or when the Sun has the most sunspots. As the cycle ends, it fades back to the solar minimum and then a new cycle begins.

79. Consider the following statements regarding the Charter of the United Nations:

1. General Assembly (UNGA) elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council.
2. The UNGA cannot make recommendations on peace and security matters which are at that time being addressed by the Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

The UNGA is comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations. The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part).

Statement 1 is correct. According to the Charter of the United Nations, decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions include:

-recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of members of the Trusteeship Council, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Statement 2 is correct. Under the UN Charter, while the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

Despite the UN Charter's provision limiting the General Assembly's powers with regard to peace and security matters; there may be cases when the Assembly can act.

In accordance with the General Assembly's "Uniting for Peace" resolution of November 1950, in the case there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression and if the Security Council fails to act, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member, then the General Assembly may act.

This resolution was invoked only once in UN peacekeeping history, when in 1956 the General Assembly established the First UN Emergency Force (UNEF I) in the Middle East.

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Flag certification:

1. It is an eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.
2. The certification is accorded by UN Environment Program under Ramsar Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.

It has 33 stringent criteria in four major heads—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Blue Flag programme is operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label: Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman and Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden in Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

53. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

1. Hundred percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route is permitted for companies seeking new industrial licenses.
2. Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector is subject to scrutiny on grounds of National Security

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation:

The Government of India has recently reviewed the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in Defence sector.

Statement 1 is incorrect. 100 percent FDI is allowed: Automatic up to 74% and Government route beyond 74% wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

FDI up to 74% under automatic route shall be permitted for companies seeking new industrial licenses.

The existing licensees require mandatory submission of a declaration with the Ministry of Defence in case change in equity/shareholding pattern or transfer of stake by existing investor to new foreign investor for FDI up to 49%, within 30 days of such change. Proposals for raising FDI beyond 49% from such companies will require Government approval.

Statement 2 is correct. Foreign Investments in the Defence Sector shall be subject to scrutiny on grounds of National Security and Government reserves the right to review any foreign investment in the Defence Sector that affects or may affect national security.

82. Which of the following strategic agreements has India signed with the United States of America?

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
2. Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement
3. Industrial Security Agreement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

The India-U.S. foundational agreement for mutual logistics support, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed in 2016.

US-India concluded the third foundational agreement, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), which is meant for secure encrypted communications, in 2018.

The Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) signed in 2019 is part of the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which is for information safety, was signed in 2002.

The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

83. The Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir is proposed across which of the following river?

- A. Cauvery River
- B. Godavari River
- C. Krishna River
- D. Vaigai River

Answer:A

Explanation:

Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir is a proposed gravity dam across Cauvery River in Karnataka. It aims to store 67 tmc water, a part of which will be pumped to Bengaluru and Kanakapura.

The project is estimated to submerge parts of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining reserve forests.

Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project claiming that it violates the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Tribunal.

84. Consider the following statements regarding the Doing Business Report:

1. It is a World Bank Group flagship publication measuring the regulations that enhance and constrain business activity.
2. It covers enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency, areas of business regulation in countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Doing Business is a World Bank Group flagship publication, it is a series of annual studies measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 190 economies—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—and over time.

Statement 2 is correct. Doing Business covers 12 areas of business regulation. Ten of these areas—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency.

Doing Business also measures regulation on employing workers and contracting with the government, which are not included in the ease of doing business score and ranking.

The World Bank has paused the publication of its 'Doing Business' report because of statistical irregularities.

85. The Ezulwini Consensus relates to which of the following issue?

- A. Reforms in the United Nations
- B. Israel-Palestine peace process
- C. A nuclear weapons free zone agreement
- D. Limiting the spread of Sahar Desert by mitigation measures

Answer:A

Explanation:

The Ezulwini Consensus is a position on international relations and reform of the United Nations, agreed by the African Union. The consensus is named after Ezulwini, a valley in central Swaziland where the agreement was made.

The consensus was then adopted at an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, in March 2005, in Addis Ababa.

The Ezulwini Consensus was followed by the Sirte Declaration of July 2005, which required at least two permanent seats and two non-permanent Security Council seats for African states.

86. Consider the following statements regarding the New START Treaty:

1. It is a verifiable U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control treaty.
2. It limits the deployed and non-deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) was signed April 8, 2010, in Prague by the United States and Russia. New START replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force.

New START is the first verifiable U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control treaty to take effect since START I in 1994.

Statement 2 is incorrect. New START limits went into effect in 2018. It capped accountable deployed strategic nuclear warheads and bombs at 1,550, down approximately 30 percent from the 2,200 limit set by SORT and down 74 percent from the START-accountable limit of 6,000.

Deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers assigned to nuclear missions are limited to 700.

Deployed and non-deployed ICBM launchers, SLBM launchers, and bombers are limited to 800.

New START does not limit the number of non-deployed ICBMs and SLBMs, but it does monitor them.

The treaty's duration is ten years from entry into force (Feb. 2021) unless it is superseded by a subsequent agreement and can be extended for an additional five years, until 2026.

87. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

1. As per UN Charter the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security rests with UNSC.
2. 'Coffee Club' group of countries advocate consensus based decision on any expansion of the Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Statement 1 is correct. The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Statement 2 is correct. Uniting for Consensus (UFC) also called the Coffee Club developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.

It aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

In 2005, Italy, Argentina, Canada, Colombia and Pakistan, representing a larger group of countries called Uniting for Consensus led by Italy, proposed to the General Assembly another project that maintains five permanent members and raises the number of non-permanent members to 20.

88. Which of the following institution publishes the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report?

- A. International Renewable Energy Agency
- B. International Energy Agency
- C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- D. Centre for Sustainable Energy

Answer:B

Explanation:

The World Energy Outlook (WEO), International Energy Agency's flagship publication, provides critical analysis and insights on trends in energy demand and supply, and what they mean for energy security, environmental protection and economic development.

The first WEO was published in 1977 and it has been an annual publication since 1998.

International Energy Agency (IEA), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, presented a 'Special Report on Sustainable Recovery' recently.

Part of IEA's flagship World Energy Outlook series, the report proposes a number of actions that could be taken over the next three years to revitalize economies and boost employment while making energy systems cleaner and more resilient.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

89. Which of the following is/are listed as essential commodities under the Schedule of Essential Commodities Act?

1. Fertilizers
2. Petroleum and petroleum products
3. Drugs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

Essential Commodities listed under the Schedule of the Essential Commodities Act are:

Drugs (meaning assigned to it in clause (b) of section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940);

-fertilizer, whether inorganic, organic or mixed;

-foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils;

-hank yarn made wholly from cotton;

-petroleum and petroleum products;

-raw jute HI jute textiles;

-seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables; seeds of cattle fodder; jute seeds and cotton seed.

On March 13, the Union consumer affairs ministry had declared face masks and hand sanitisers as essential commodities till June 30 to boost supply and prevent hoarding of these items in its fight to check the spread of coronavirus.

90. Consider the following statements regarding carbon neutrality:

1. It refers to having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.
2. India has declared being carbon neutral by 2060 as its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Removing carbon oxide from the atmosphere and then storing it is known as carbon sequestration. In order to achieve net zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration.

Carbon Neutral is also used to describe the state of an entity (such as a company, service, product or event), where the carbon emissions caused by them have been balanced out by funding an equivalent amount of carbon savings elsewhere in the world.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Carbon neutrality by 2060 is not one of India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the Paris Agreement. India has pledged following NDCs:

-To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 levels;

-To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40% of installed electric power capacity by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF);

-To create an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5–3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

China has recently declared that it aims to have CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

91. Which of the following is/are feature(s) of the 'Saubhagya' scheme?

1. Free electricity connections to all households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
2. Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible habitations.
3. Beneficiary households under the scheme are identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – “Saubhagya” was launched with an aim to achieve universal household electrification.

Statement 1 is correct. Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

Statement 2 is correct. Schemes targets for providing Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages / habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective.

Statement 3 is correct. The prospective beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme would be identified using SECC 2011 data. However, un-electrified households not covered under SECC data would also be provided electricity connections under the scheme on payment of Rs. 500 which shall be recovered by DISCOMs in 10 instalments through electricity bill.

92. Consider the following statements regarding the National Service Scheme:

1. It aims to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in education institutions.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. National Service Scheme (NSS) is an extension of activities to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in education institutions

Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme is under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. National Service Scheme starts from 11th standard onwards.

The awards for the best National Service Scheme (NSS) units at higher secondary and vocational higher secondary schools, programme officers, and volunteers for the 2019-20 academic year have been declared recently.

93. Which of the following institution has published the 2020 Smart City Index?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Institute for Management Development
- C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- D. United Cities and Local Governments

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Answer:B

Explanation:

The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the 2020 Smart City Index.

Citizens from 109 cities were surveyed in April and May 2020 and asked questions on the technological provisions of their city across five key areas: health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance.

Singapore has topped the index followed by Helsinki (Finland) and Zurich (Switzerland).

India: Hyderabad; 85th rank (down from 67 in 2019)

New Delhi; 86th rank (down from 68 in 2019)

Mumbai; 93rd rank (down from 78 in 2019)

Bengaluru; 95th rank (down from 79 in 2019).

94. Consider the following statements regarding the Cyanobacteria:

1. These are photosynthetic bacteria that can manufacture their own food.
2. They can grow into large blooms known as blue-green algae.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

Cyanobacteria are aquatic and photosynthetic, that is, they live in the water, and can manufacture their own food. Because they are bacteria, they are quite small and usually unicellular, though they often grow in colonies large enough to see.

Cyanobacteria can occur naturally in standing water and sometimes grow into large blooms known as blue-green algae.

They are also important providers of nitrogen fertilizer in the cultivation of rice and beans.

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Some species of cyanobacteria produce toxins that affect animals and humans.

Botswana is home to about a third of Africa's declining elephant population. Recently many elephant carcasses were spotted in the country's Okavango Delta between May and June.

Officials say a total of 330 elephants are now known to have died from ingesting cyanobacteria.

95. Consider the following statements regarding the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

1. It empowers the central government to allow certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities in foreign jurisdictions.
2. Excess spending under CSR obligation by a company in a financial year can offset its CSR obligations in subsequent financial 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

Answer:C

Explanation:

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 has been passed by the parliament recently.

Statement 1 is correct. The Bill empowers the central government to allow certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities (as may be prescribed) in foreign jurisdictions.

Statement 2 is correct. Under the Companies Act, 2013, companies with net worth, turnover or profits above a specified amount are required to constitute Corporate social responsibility (CSR) Committees and spend 2% of their average net profits in the last three financial years, towards its CSR policy.

The Bill exempts companies with a CSR liability of up to Rs 50 lakh a year from setting up CSR Committees. Further, companies which spend any amount in excess of their CSR obligation in a financial year can set off the excess amount towards their CSR obligations in subsequent financial years.

96. Which of the following institution has published the Global Climate Risk Index 2020?

- A. Germanwatch
- B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- C. World Meteorological Organization
- D. United States Environmental Protection Agency

Answer:A

Explanation:

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 published by Germanwatch analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heatwaves etc.).

The Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2020 is the 15th edition of this annual analysis. The report mentions that India suffered from one of the longest ever recorded heatwaves in 2018, with hundreds of deaths, when temperatures climbed to up to 48°C. Prolonged drought and resultant widespread crop failures, compounded by a water shortage, brought about violent riots and increased migration.

97. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Chandra Telescope:

1. It is located at Hanle, Ladakh.
2. It is remotely operated using a dedicated satellite communication link.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is housed within the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle near Leh in Ladakh.

Statement 2 is correct. The telescope remotely operated using a dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

IIA is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The telescope has completed two decades in operation.

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

1. Palk Strait – Sri Lanka
2. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait – Yemen
3. Malacca Strait – Indonesia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer:D

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

Explanation:

The Palk Strait is a strait between the Tamil Nadu and the Jaffna District of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

The Bab-el-Mandeb strait is located between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The Malacca Strait is a narrow stretch of water between the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia (Sumatra). It is the main shipping channel between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

99. Consider the following statements regarding the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT):

1. It has been on the agenda of the UN Conference on Disarmament.
2. It is proposed to cover only the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) recognized nuclear-weapon states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The proposed Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) is intended to prohibit the production of fissile material. It has been on the proposed agenda of the Conference on Disarmament for many years, but the CD has not been able to establish a committee to begin formal negotiations.

UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), a body of 65 member nations established as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament. The CD operates by consensus and is often stagnant, impeding progress on an FMCT.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Those nations that joined the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-weapon states are already prohibited from producing or acquiring fissile material for weapons.

An FMCT would provide new restrictions for the five recognized nuclear weapon states (NWS—United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China), and for the four nations that are not NPT members (Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea).

In order for negotiations to begin on an FMCT, Pakistan will have to remove its opposition vote, and a consensus to move forward with negotiations must be reached. Pakistan, in order to offset its disadvantageous position relative to India's superior nuclear stockpile, wants treaty to include current fissile material stockpiles, instead of just capping future production.

100. Which of the following institution has published the Time Use in India-2019 report?

ANSWER KEY OF UPSC MOCK TEST V

- A. National Statistical Office (NSO)
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Labour Bureau
- D. National Informatics Centre (NIC)

Answer:A

Explanation:

National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted the first Time Use Survey in India during January – December 2019 and has recently published the Time Use in India-2019 report.

The primary objective of Time Use Survey (TUS) is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities. TUS is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, and unpaid domestic service producing activities of the household members. It also provides information on time spent on learning, socializing, leisure activities, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.