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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0:

1. It is a flagship program of the Ministry for Rural Development.
2. It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with a set of atleast 5 villages.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship program of the Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD).

It aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with a set of at least (5) villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.

It is the upgraded version of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 1.0. It was launched in 2018.

The scheme is extended to all educational institutes; however under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 participating institutes are selected based on the fulfillment of certain criteria.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the Eurasian Otter:

1. It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife Protection act, 1972.
2. It is found all over India.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Eurasian Otter is listed in Schedule II of Wildlife Protection act, 1972.

Its IUCN Status is Near Threatened.

It is found in Western Ghats and Himalayas while the Smooth-coated otter is found all over India.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about Green Companies (GreenCo) Rating System:

1. It has been developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2. The system evaluates the companies on 10 broad green parameters, including GreenHouse Gases (GHG) reduction, renewable energy use etc.
3. Ratings provided under GreenCo remain valid for three years.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: C

Explanation:

The Green Companies (GreenCo) Rating System has been developed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The system evaluates the companies on 10 broad green parameters, including GreenHouse Gases (GHG) reduction, renewable energy use etc.

Accordingly, ratings are provided which remain valid for three years.

It is the "first of its kind in the world" holistic framework that evaluates companies on the environmental friendliness of their activities using a life cycle approach.

Question 4:

Earth Hour is an annual initiative of

Options:

- A. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- B. World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature
- C. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- D. Earth Hour Network

Answer: B

Explanation:

Earth Hour is the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)'s annual initiative that began in 2007.

It is held every year on the last Saturday of March.

It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.

The idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection.

Question 5:



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With reference to the Methanotrophs, consider the following statements:

1. They are bacteria that metabolize and convert methane into carbon-di-oxide.
2. Methanotrophs are active near the roots or soil-water interfaces.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Methanotrophs are bacteria that metabolize and convert methane into carbon-di-oxide.

They can effectively reduce the emission of methane, which is the second most important greenhouse

gas (GHG) and 26 times more potent as compared to carbon-di-oxide.

In rice fields, Methanotrophs are active near the roots or soil-water interfaces.

Besides methane mitigation studies, Methanotrophs can also be used in methane value addition (valorization) studies.

Bio-methane generated from waste can be used by the Methanotrophs and can be converted to value-added products such as single-cell proteins, carotenoids, biodiesel, and so on.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement which is not true-

(1) The Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar was inaugurated in pune maharashtra

(2) It was inaugurated by PM Narendra modi.



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(3) The production hangar belongs to Defence Research & Development Organisation(DRDO).

(4) It is powered by two Shakti engines and inherits many technical features of the Advanced Light Helicopter.

Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,3.&4

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

ANSWER-C

Government has adopted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mantra of "Make in India", for India and the world" to build strong defence and security infrastructure in the country. This was stated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh after inaugurating the new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru, Karnataka LCH is a 5.5-tonne class combat helicopter designed and developed by HAL. It is powered by two Shakti engines and inherits many technical features of the Advanced Light Helicopter. LCH has the distinction of being the first attach helicopter to land in Forward Bases at Siachen, 4,700 mts above sea level with 500kg load. HAL for being the backbone of the Indian Air Force and meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces. "The HAL has excelled both in operations and finance in the last five years. It has achieved operational clearance on seven platforms, including Light Combat Aircraft and Light Combat Helicopter, and overhauled platforms like Hawk and SU 30 MKI," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh also appreciated that HAL had a turnover of Rs 19,705 crore till March 2019 and it gave shareholders a healthy dividend of 198 per cent.

2. The word RAISE 2020 recent in news which is related-

- a. Environment protection
- b. Health protection
- c. Artificial Intelligence
- d. None of the above



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Answer-c

The Government of India (GoI) announced the mega event, RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,' to be held from April 11-12 in New Delhi. RAISE 2020 is India's first Artificial Intelligence summit to be organized by the Government in partnership with Industry & Academia. The summit will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and charter a course to use AI for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility amongst other sectors. Ahead of the summit, MeitY organized an Industry Consultation with industry representatives to bring in synergies within India's Artificial Intelligence landscape. RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation through responsible AI. The event will start with a Startup Challenge – Pitchfest followed by the two-day summit, organized by Government of India along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will witness robust participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.

3. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India.
2. Northern Coalfield Limited Limited has set up a centre named Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support (SARAS).
3. It will enable the company in Integration of Innovation and Research for enhancing coal production, productivity, and safety in mines.
4. SARAS would also help establish centers of excellence to ensure technical support to R&D

Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only (1) & (3)
- (b) Only 2,3.&4
- (c) Only 1 & 2
- (d) All the above

Answer-d

Coal India's flagship subsidiary NCL has set up a centre named "Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support"(SARAS) to promote Innovation, Research & Development and skill development along with improving company's operational efficiency and utilize resources at optimum level. NCL CMD Shri Prabhat Kumar Sinha announced this pioneering move in Indian coal sector at a National Seminar



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on Innovation Driving Productivity with Special Focus on Coal, Power, Steel and MSME Sectors organized by World Confederation of Productivity Science in New Delhi. "SARAS will help and enable the company in Integration of Innovation and Research for enhancing coal production, productivity, and safety in mines. The company has set up a dedicated R&D Centre in collaboration with IIT (BHU) and have already commenced 6 varied domain projects worth ₹ 60 Million to facilitate this move." Shri Sinha Said in the seminar.

Besides, the SARAS would also help establish centres of excellence to ensure technical support to R&D along with thrust on quality skill development and employment to local youths in and around company's operational area. Continuous improvement of the existing technical infrastructure of the company for operational efficiency and integrating all initiatives with common tech platforms for optimum utilization of resources are also the objectives of setting up this centre

4. In order to roll out Artificial Intelligence Modules in Indian schools, the Atal Innovative Mission and NITI Aayog has joined hands with which of the following organisation?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) IMF
- (c) NASSCOM
- (d) FICCI

Answer –c

With an imperative to empower the youngest minds of the country with the latest technologies, NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) launched an AI based Module rolled out for students in Indian schools.

The AI-Base Module has been introduced with an objective for students to leverage the full potential of AIM's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) and further empowers them to innovate and create valuable solutions benefiting societies at large. The module contains activities, videos and experiments that enable students to work through and learn the various concepts of AI. Sharing his thoughts, CEO, NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant said that India can add 1.3% to its GDP on an annual basis through the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence. NASSCOM acknowledges the role played by AI and other emerging technologies, as an imperative to build a digitally powered tomorrow. By inculcating AI and a 'learning by doing' culture in schools, huge opportunities are bound to arise for the overall industries at global scale. To achieve this, NASSCOM and AIM have worked in collaboration with industry members and universities to develop the special modules on Artificial Intelligence learning.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. ARCI scientists develop friction-reducing nanocomposite coatings



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2. Nanocomposite coatings are formed by mixing two or more dissimilar materials at nanoscale to improve the physical, chemical and physicochemical properties of the new materials.
3. The scientists have found that nickel tungsten-based coatings with infusion of particular sized Silicon Carbide (SiC)
4. ARCI scientists develop friction-reducing nanocomposite coatings to increase device life

Of the above, correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only (1) & (3)
- (b) Only 2,3.&4
- (c) Only 1 & 2
- (d) All the above

ANSWER- D

Several aerospace, defence, automobile, space devices need to reduce friction, wear, and tear to enhance the life of components. The usual route taken is to lubricate these dynamic systems, which add to the cost, complexity, and weight of these systems.

A group of scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D center of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) have developed a process for size-selective deposition of nanocomposite coatings which can reduce friction of these dynamic systems.

The scientists have found that nickel tungsten-based coatings with impregnation of particular sized Silicon Carbide (SiC) submicron particles using an economical and straightforward pulsed electroplating or electrodeposition process can provide an excellent combination of wear and corrosion resistance with the low friction coefficient and good oil retention capacity. The coating could address the emerging need for coatings with low friction and wear. Nanocomposite coatings with hard particles inside a tough matrix result in the best combination of wear resistance and reduced friction. However, the size of reinforcement particles is a critical factor in deciding the friction characteristics. Too much variation in the size of reinforcement particles in composite coating results in premature failure of the coating due to stress concentration.

Electrodeposition also called as electroplating, involves the metal parts to be immersed in an electrolyte bath solution, in this case, typically prepared by dissolving crystals of Nickel (Ni) and Tungsten (W) salts in a mix of distilled water and other additives. A direct current (DC) was passed through the solution, and the resulting reaction left a deposit of Ni-W alloy on the piece being plated. During



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electrodeposition, a diffusion layer was formed at the cathode surface due to movement and deposition of metallic ions in solution.

Many opportunities and application avenues are available for such nanocomposite coatings, including aerospace, automotive, and space sectors, where wear and corrosion are main problems. The process is highly economical without environmental constraints. The process has been patented and is ready for commercialization through the industry.

Economy

Question 1.

Which among the following rights have been vested with the farmers under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' rights Act, 2001?

1. Right to Register a new variety of seed.
2. Right to sow, re-sow and exchange seed of a variety protected under the Act.
3. Right to sell branded seeds of a variety protected under the Act.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer A:

Explanation;

Rights under the Act

1. **Breeders' Rights** : Breeders will have exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import or export the protected variety. Breeder can appoint agent/ licensee and may exercise for civil remedy in case of infringement of rights.
2. **Researchers' Rights** : Researcher can use any of the registered variety under the Act for conducting experiment or research. This includes the use of a variety as an initial source of variety for the purpose of developing another variety but repeated use needs prior permission of the registered breeder.
3. **Farmers' Rights**
 - A farmer who has evolved or developed a new variety is entitled for registration and protection in like manner as a breeder of a variety;
 - Farmers variety can also be registered as an extant variety;
 - A farmer can save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 in the same manner as he was entitled before the coming into force of this Act provided farmer shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under the PPV&FR Act, 2001;
 - Farmers are eligible for recognition and rewards for the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants;
 - There is also a provision for compensation to the farmers for non-performance of variety under Section 39 (2) of the Act, 2001 and
 - Farmer shall not be liable to pay any fee in any proceeding before the Authority or Registrar or the Tribunal or the High Court under the Act.



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Question 2.

Consider the following statements related to Shell Companies in India:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 provides for a clear cut definition of Shell Companies.
2. These Companies do not produce substantial amount of Goods and Services.
3. These companies are mainly set up in order to evade taxes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer C:

Explanation:

Shell companies are the corporate entities which do not have any active business operations or significant assets in their possession. They neither manufacture anything nor render any service. They are generally used to make financial transactions in order to evade taxes.

Question 3.

With respect to State Finance Commission, Consider the following statements:

1. The State Finance Commission is set up by Governor every 5 years or at earlier time.
2. It gives recommendations for the devolution of taxes from the State to the Local Bodies.

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:

Under Article 243-I of the Constitution of India, the governor of a state is required to constitute a Finance Commission every five years. Wondering why? This is in order to decide the resource allocation between the state government and the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Article 243-Y also brought city councils or municipalities under the purview of the State Finance Commission.

A State Finance Commission has functions similar to that of the Central Finance Commission. It allocates resources of a state to its Panchayati Raj institutions at all three levels in terms of taxes, duties and levies to be collected by the state and the local bodies.

Question 4.

Which among the following are part of Annual Financial Statement of a particular year?

1. Budget Estimates of the Next Financial Year.
2. Revised Estimates of the Present Financial Year.
3. Actuals of the Previous Financial Year.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:



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

Answer D:

Explanation:

There are four components of Annual Financial Statement of a particular year for the union gov.

Actuals Budget of the last year

Budget Estimates of the current year

Revised Estimates of the current year

Budget Estimates of the next year

Question 5.

Consider the following statements about Atal Pension Yojana:

1. It is applicable to all citizens of India in the age group 18-40 years.
2. The Government contributes 50% of the premium for all subscribers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Explanation:

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is open to all Indians between the age of 18 and 40. This allows an individual to contribute for at least 20 years before reaping the benefits of the scheme. Any bank account holder who is not a member of any statutory social security scheme can avail of the scheme.
- Guaranteed monthly pension for subscribers, ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month.
- Government of India (GoI) will also co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1,000 per annum, whichever is lower. The Government co-contribution is available for those who are not covered by any Statutory Social Security Schemes and is not an Income Tax payer
- GoI will co-contribute to each eligible subscriber, for a period of 5 years who joins the scheme in the period June 1 to December 31, 2015. The benefit of five years of Government co-contribution under APY would not exceed 5 years for all subscribers including migrated Swavalamban beneficiaries.

Polity

Question 1:



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Consider the following statements regarding electoral bonds.

1. The donor may approach any Indian bank and purchase the bonds.
2. The donor shall be permitted to buy the bonds through cheque/digital payment. Hence the identity of the donors will be protected.
3. The donor will donate these bonds to the political party.
4. The political party has to encash it into the account which is registered with the Election Commission of India

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. 1, 2 & 3 only
- B. 2 & 4 only
- C. 2, 3 & 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that the Supreme Court had found it unnecessary to stay the electoral bonds scheme (EBS). Supreme Court recently passed an interim order directing political parties to provide complete information to the ECI in sealed covers on every single donor and contribution received by them till date through electoral bonds

From Prelims point of view: Electoral bonds

The Electoral bonds are instruments/securities used to donate funds to the political parties. These bonds will be on the lines of bearer bonds or promissory notes wherein the issuer (bank) will be the custodian and will pay the one who holds the bonds (political party)

Features:

The donor may approach designated SBI branches and purchase the bonds. The donor shall be permitted to buy the bonds through cheque/digital payment. Hence the identity of the donors will be protected (if the donors are identified, they may get caught up in political rivalry-especially if the donor is a businessman). The donor will donate these bonds to the political party. The political party has to encash it into the account which is registered with the Election Commission of India.

Question 2:

Mahadayi river, recently in the news, does not flow through which of the following states?

Options:

- A. Goa
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Telangana

Answer: D

Explanation:



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Kalasa Banduri project

The project involves diverting water from Mahadayi river, the lifeline of Goa, into the Malaprabha river. The Kalasa Banduri project is aimed at providing drinking water to three important districts of north Karnataka — Belagavi, Gadag and Dharwad — which go parched in summer due to acute water scarcity. Mahadayi river originates from a cluster of 30 springs at Bhimgad in the Western Ghats in the Belgaum district of Karnataka. Then it enters Goa and finally drains in Arabian sea. Goa state capital Panaji lies on the banks of Mandovi. Mahadayi Water Tribunal (MWT) Award in 2018: Karnataka has been allocated 13.5tmcft of water, Goa has been 24tmcft while Maharashtra has been allocated 1.3tmcft

Question 3:

Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Management Authority.

1. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
2. The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. The Prime Minister acts as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Centre will not allot any additional assistance to Kerala from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as it has failed to produce utilisation certificates for 50% of over ₹3,000 crore fund allotted to it after the 2018 floods

From Prelims Point of View: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
- The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.
- In recognition of the importance of Disaster Management as a national priority, the Government of India set up a High-Powered Committee (HPC) in August 1999 and a National Committee after the Gujarat earthquake (2001). Mercy petition
- As per the Constitutional framework in India, mercy petition to the President is the last constitutional resort a convict, when he has been punished by the court of law. A convict can present a mercy petition to the President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution of India.
- Similarly, the power to grant pardon is conferred upon the Governors of States under Article 161 of the Constitution of India.



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Question 4:

The National Crime Record Bureau, set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators, works under which of the following organizations/agencies or ministries?

Options:

- A. National Security Advisor
- B. Prime Minister's Office
- C. Supreme Court
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: D

Explanation:

Two Police related Citizen centric service namely 'Missing Person Search' and 'Generate Vehicle NOC' will now be available online to Citizens. Generate Vehicle NOC' allows citizens to ascertain the status of a vehicle before its second hand purchase, as to whether it is suspicious or clean from Police records

Launched by: National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) on Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) platform. Prelims Value Addition. NCRB was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.

CCTNS implemented by NCRB is a nationwide network that connects over 15,000 police stations across the country and aims to integrate all the data and records of crime into a Core Application Software

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about Polio.

1. There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented.
2. Today, only 3 countries in the world have never stopped transmission of wild polio virus (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria).
3. Nigeria is all set to be declared as having eradicated polio this year, and in turn, the entire African region will become free of wild poliovirus

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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The World Health Organization announced that polio will continue to remain a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for three months.

What is Polio?

Polio, short for poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. The virus destroys nerve cells in the spinal cord causing muscle wasting and paralysis.

There are three wild types of poliovirus (WPV) – type 1, type 2, and type 3. People need to be protected against all three types of the virus in order to prevent polio disease

Symptoms: Many people who are infected with the poliovirus don't become sick and have no symptoms. However, those who do become ill develop paralysis, which can sometimes be fatal

Is it Curable?

There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented. Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.

Vaccine contains weakened-virus activating an immune response in the body, building up antibodies against virus.

What is Vaccine derived Polio Virus?

These are rare strains of poliovirus that have genetically mutated from the virus strain contained in the oral polio vaccine (OPV) administered to children. 90% of VDPV cases were due to the type 2 component in OPV

Does Polio still exist?

- Polio does still exist, although polio cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated more than 350 000 cases to 22 reported cases in 2017.
- Today, only 3 countries in the world have never stopped transmission of wild polio virus (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria).
- Nigeria is all set to be declared as having eradicated polio this year, and in turn, the entire African region will become free of wild poliovirus

International Relations

Question 1:

'Phase One' agreement, recently in the news, was signed between which of the following nations?

Options:

- E. US & Russia
- F. US & China
- G. China & Japan
- H. Australia & Japan

Answer: B

Explanation:

United States and China recently announced a "Phase One" agreement. With this US will reduce some tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm and energy goods.

Background:

Donald Trump in 2018 began setting tariffs and other trade barriers on China with the goal of forcing it to make changes to what the U.S. says are "unfair trade practices" of China. Among those trade



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practices and their effects are the growing trade deficit, the theft of intellectual property, and the forced transfer of American technology to China. The trade war has brought struggles for farmers and manufacturers and higher prices for consumers. It has also caused economic damage. In some countries, some countries have benefited from increased manufacturing to fill the gaps. It has also led to stock market instability.

Impact of trade war on India :

- The US manufacturers are setting up their bases in India. For India, this will be beneficial as it would create more jobs for us.
- There is a possibility that China could soon start flooding excess steel and aluminium into India's market after this raised tariffs on Chinese products by US.
- Mobile phones, refrigerators, washing machines, ACs, water purifiers, and possibly electric vehicles will now see increased investment flow directed towards India.
- The Indian consumers will get the products at a cheaper rate but the domestic producers of India will have to compete with the Chinese imports or else face loss.
- Indian producers will get an opportunity to fill this generated gap and penetrate in the US market.

Question 2:

A 'Black notice' issued by the Interpol is meant for seeking information about

Options:

- A. Missing minors
- B. An upcoming event
- C. unidentified bodies
- D. missing objects

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Interpol has issued a blue corner notice to help locate self-styled godman Nithyananda. Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information. There are seven types of notices — Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice.

Types of Notice

Red Notice: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

Yellow Notice: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.

Blue Notice: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.

Black Notice: To seek information on unidentified bodies.

Green Notice: To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.



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Orange Notice: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.

Purple Notice: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice.

1. When a state fails to comply with ICJ rulings, the UN Security Council has the power to impose sanctions against it and ensure compliance when international security and peace are at stake.
2. So far, the Security Council has never taken a coercive measure against any country to get an ICJ ruling implemented.
3. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) upheld the provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention while ruling against Myanmar.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

In an unanimously-ruled order issued by a panel of 17 judges, The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) upheld the provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention – saying Myanmar had “caused irreparable damage to the rights of the Rohingya”.

What is Rohingya issue?

An estimated 7.3 lakh Rohingya (Muslim minorities in Buddhist majority Myanmar) have fled to Bangladesh since 2017. The crisis was triggered when the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown on Rohingya villages in the country's coastal Rakhine state. In August 2019, the UN said the army's action was carried out with “genocidal intent”.

What were the orders of ICJ?

ICJ has ordered Myanmar to take emergency measures to prevent genocide of the Rohingya. Myanmar was also ordered to prevent the destruction of evidence and to ensure the preservation of evidence related to the alleged genocide. Is the matter closed?

The recent order is a restraining order. It is just a provisional measure.

The hearings dealing with the main, and more serious allegations of genocide by the Myanmar military, have not even started. This is expected to linger for years with no quick closures.

Is the ICJ order binding?



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The ruling of the court is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed. However, no means are available to the court to enforce it. What happens if Myanmar doesn't comply with the provisional measures?

When a state fails to comply with ICJ rulings, the UN Security Council has the power to impose sanctions against it and ensure compliance when international security and peace are at stake.

So far, the Security Council has never taken a coercive measure against any country to get an ICJ ruling implemented.

Question 4:

'Billion tree campaign', recently in the news, was inspired by which of the following Nobel laureate?

Options:

- A. Wangari Maathai
- B. Kailash Satyarthi
- C. Barack Obama
- D. Abhijit Banerjee

Answer: A

Explanation:

In 2006, the Billion Tree Campaign was launched, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a response to the challenges of global warming, as well as to a wider array of sustainability challenges from water supply to biodiversity loss. The Billion Tree Campaign was inspired by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement. WWF, the Wildlife Conservation Society and BirdLife International today launched the Trillion Trees programme, a new 25-year initiative to help scale global forest commitments and spur greater ambitions towards protecting and restoring one trillion trees by 2050. During the World Economic Forum 2020 in Davos, World Economic Forum announced a platform for governments, businesses, civil society to support UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, led by UNEP and FAO

Question 5:

Under "Operation Vanilla", India offered humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to which of the following nations?

Options:

- A. Yemen
- B. Oman
- C. Madagascar
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: C

Explanation:

Launched by Indian Navy to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane.



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History

Question 1. Which one among the followings was not the objective of the Cabinet Mission of 1946?

- To obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties.
- To formulate a constitution-making body i.e., the Constituent Assembly of India.
- To grant independence with two Dominions of India and Pakistan.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

Objectives of Cabinet Mission

- To obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- To formulate a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India).
- To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties.

The main reasons for the failure of the Cabinet Mission are given below:

- The Congress Party wanted a strong centre with minimum powers for the provinces.
- The Muslim League wanted strong political safeguards for the Muslims like parity in the legislatures.
- Since both parties had many ideological differences and could not find common ground, the mission came up with its own set of proposals in May 1946.
- The Dominion of India would be granted independence, without any partition.
- The provinces would be divided into three groups/sections:

- Group A: Madras, Central Provinces, UP, Bihar, Bombay and Orissa
- Group B: Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan
- Group C: Bengal and Assam

Question 2. Consider the following statements about the Government of India Act, 1935.

- It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
- It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

Select the correct code:

- 1 and 3.
- 1 and 2.
- 2 and 3.



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d. All the above.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

Features of the 1935 Act:

- It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
- It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Moreover, the Act introduced responsible governments in provinces, that is, the governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
- It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.
- It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).
- It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.
- It extended franchise. About 10 per cent of the total population got the voting right.
- It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
- It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

Question 3. Who was the author of the book- **Satyagraha in Champaran** ?

- a. Dr.Rajendra Prasad.
- b. S. Gopal.
- c. Mahadev Desai.
- d. J.B.Kripalani.

Ans. a.

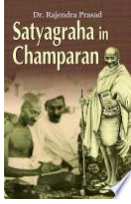
Explanation:

- In 1928 the book authored by Rajendra Prasad was published.



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Question 4. Which one of the following was not constituted as Famine Commission in British India ?

- Strachey Commission.
- McDonnell Commission.
- Whitley Commission.
- Lyall Commission.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- The Royal **Commission on Labour** or the Whitley **Commission on Labour** was set up in 1929 to inquire into the existing conditions of **labour** in industrial undertakings and plantations in **India**. The **Commission** was chaired by John Henry Whitley. The **commission** submitted its report in 1931.

First Famine Commission

- It was set up in 1878 under the Chairmanship of **Sir Richard Strachey**. The commission recommended state interference in food trade in the event of famine. India witnessed another major famine in 1896-97.

Second Famine Commission

- It was constituted in 1897 under the Chairmanship of Sir James Lyall. This commission recommended the development of irrigation facilities.

Third Famine Commission

- It was set up in 1900 under the Chairmanship of **Sir Anthony** (Later Lord) **McDonnell** to re-evaluate and recommend changes in report of the previous commission, based on the findings of the recent famine. This Commission recommended that the official machinery dealing with a famine must work around the year so that the scarcity of food grains could be controlled well in time.

Though, three Famine Commissions were constituted, but the British Government was never serious in dealing with the welfare plans for the masses. Famines continued to occur and the Famine of Bengal (1943) was the most horrifying. This was one of the worst gifts of the British Rule to India.

Question 5. Which among the following ashrams were established by Gandhiji?

- Phoneix Ashram.
- Kochrab ashram.
- Sabarmati Ashram.
- Sevagram Ashram.



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Select the correct code:

- a. 1, 3 and 4.
- b. 3 and 4.
- c. 1,2 and 3.
- d. All the above.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- The Phoenix Settlement or Ashram was founded by Gandhiji near Durban, South Africa, in 1904.
- On May 25 1915, Gandhiji set up an ashram in Kochrab, Ahmedabad.
- On June 17, 1917, Gandhiji formed a new ashram in Sabarmati.
- **Sabarmati Ashram** (also known as **Gandhi Ashram**, **Harijan Ashram**, or **Satyagraha Ashram**) is located in the [Sabarmati](#) suburb of [Ahmedabad](#), [Gujarat](#). It was established by Gandhiji.
- Sevagram is the name of a town in the state of Maharashtra, India. It was the place of Gandhi's ashram and his residence from 1936 to his death in 1948.