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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the World Water Development Report 2020:

1. The report is produced annually by the World Bank.
2. Title of the World Water Development Report 2020 is "Water and Climate Change".

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:

World Water Development Report 2020 is produced annually by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and released by UN-Water.

Title of World Water Development Report 2020: Water and climate Change.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

1. It was launched by India.
2. It is an international knowledge and capacity development platform where countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters.

Which of these statements is / are correct?



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Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by India at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US in 2019.

It is an international knowledge and capacity development platform where countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters.

To rapidly expand the development of resilient infrastructure and retrofit existing infrastructure for resilience, and to enable a measurable reduction in infrastructure losses.

As of March 2020, the CDRI comprises 15 member countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Fiji, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Mauritius, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and United States.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi is operating as the interim secretariat of CDRI.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

1. The act is regulated and administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. The act is for the control of the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce, in certain commodities.
3. The act was recently invoked to regulate the production, quality, distributions of masks and hand sanitizers.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:



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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Essential Commodities Act, 1955, intends to provide, in the interest of the general public, for the control of the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce, in certain commodities.

The act is regulated and administered by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Under the EC Act, the States and Union Territories can ensure that manufacturers enhance their production capacity so that masks and hand sanitizers are widely available to consumers.

The invocation of EC Act has empowered the Centre as well as states to regulate the production, quality, distributions of masks and hand sanitizers.

Question 4:

Raider-X, recently in news, is associated with which of the following

Options:

- A. new anti-tank missile developed by DRDO
- B. new space satellite for military sent by ISRO
- C. new bomb detection device
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore have developed a new bomb detection device called Raider-X.

It is an explosives detection device. It can detect up to 20 explosives from a stand-off distance of two meters.

Developed by the High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL) — an arm of the DRDO — in Pune and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.



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It can also discern bulk explosives even if they have been concealed.

Question 5:

With reference to the COVID-19 National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC) , consider the following statements:

1. It is a Telemedicine Hub established by AIIMS, New Delhi.
2. The goal of the facility is to at least connect the doctors in the country together to discuss amongst themselves the protocols undertaken and provide the best treatment accordingly.

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



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Explanation:

The CoNTeC is a Telemedicine Hub established by AIIMS, New Delhi, wherein expert doctors from various clinical domains will be available 24x7 to answer the multifaceted questions from specialists from all over the country.

Doctors worldwide are using different protocols to treat COVID-19 patients.

The goal of the facility is to at least connect the doctors in the country together to discuss amongst themselves the protocols undertaken and provide the best treatment accordingly.

It is a multi-modal telecommunications hub through which 2 way audio-video and text communications can be undertaken from any part of the country as well as the world at large.

The CoNTeC is also fully integrated with the National Medical College Network (NMCN) to conduct a full fledged Video Conference (VC) between the 50 Medical Colleges connected through the NMCN with its National Resource Centre located at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement which is true regarding DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019.

1. DNA testing is allowed only in specific of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill.
2. National DNA Databank and regional DNA Databanks will store DNA Profiles in a specified format
3. Establishment of DNA Regulatory Board which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories.
4. Requirement of written consent if the offence carries a punishment of up to seven years. If the offence carries more than seven years of imprisonment or death, consent is not required.

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



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Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan introduced "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" in the Lok Sabha. While introducing, the Union Minister said that this Bill is for the regulation of use and application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.

The primary intended purpose of "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" is for expanding the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.

The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons, is well recognized across the world. By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in this country, there is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable, and furthermore that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.

The proposed legislation will empower the criminal justice delivery system by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the gold standard in crime investigations. Establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.

The Bill provides for the regulation of use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of certain persons.

Use of DNA Data: Under the Bill, DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill. These include offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and for civil matters such as paternity suits. Further, the Schedule includes DNA testing for matters related to establishment of individual identity.

Collection of DNA: While preparing a DNA profile, bodily substances of persons may be collected by the investigating authorities. Authorities are required to obtain consent for collection in certain situations. For arrested persons, authorities are required to obtain written consent if the offence carries a punishment of up to seven years. If the offence carries more than seven years of imprisonment or death, consent is not required. Further, if the person is a victim, or relative of a missing person, or a minor or disabled person, the authorities are required to obtain the written consent of such victim, or relative, or parent or guardian of the minor or disabled person. If consent is not given in these cases, the authorities can approach a Magistrate who may order the taking of bodily substances of such persons.

DNA Data Bank: The Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more states. DNA laboratories are required to share DNA data prepared by them with the National and Regional DNA Data Banks. Every Data Bank will be required to maintain indices for the following categories of data: (i) a crime scene index, (ii) a suspects' or undertrials' index, (iii) an offenders' index, (iv) a missing persons' index, and (v) an unknown deceased persons' index.

Removal of DNA profiles: The Bill states that the criteria for entry, retention, or removal of the DNA profile will be specified by regulations. However, the Bill provides for removal of the DNA profiles of the following persons: (i) of a suspect if a police report is filed or court order given, (ii) of an undertrial if a court order is given, and (iii) on written request, for persons who are not a suspect, offender or undertrial, from the crime scene or missing persons' index.

DNA Regulatory Board: The Bill provides for the establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board, which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories. The Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, will be the ex officio Chairperson of the



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Board. The Board will comprise additional members including: (i) experts in the field of biological sciences, and (ii) Director General of the National Investigation Agency and the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Functions of the Board: The functions of the Board include: (i) advising governments on all issues related to establishing DNA laboratories or Data Banks, and (ii) granting accreditation to DNA laboratories. Further, the Board is required to ensure that all information relating to DNA profiles with the Data Banks, laboratories, and other persons are kept confidential.

DNA laboratories: Any laboratory undertaking DNA testing is required to obtain accreditation from the Board. The Board may revoke the accreditation for reasons including, failure to: (i) undertake DNA testing, or (ii) comply with the conditions attached to the accreditation. If the accreditation is revoked, an appeal will lie before the central government or any other authority notified by the central government. Further, every DNA laboratory is required to follow standards for quality assurance in collection, storing, and analysis of DNA samples. After depositing the DNA profile for criminal cases, the laboratory is required to return the biological sample to the investigating officer. In all other cases, the sample must be destroyed.

Offences: The Bill specifies penalties for various offences, including: (i) for disclosure of DNA information, or (ii) using DNA sample without authorization. For instance, disclosure of DNA information will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years and fine of up to one lakh rupees.

2. Consider the following statement which is true regarding MANAV -

1. Department Indian council medical recently launched MANAV Human Atlas Initiative.
2. For the first time, Indian scientists will be mapping every single tissue of the human body to have deeper understanding of the roles of tissues and cells linked to various diseases.
3. it is public and private venture.
4. The aim is to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of the human body.

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-B

A new human atlas initiative has been launched to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture



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of working of human body. The project named Manav has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology and Persistent Systems, a biotechnology company.

This mega project will collate and integrate molecular information on human tissues and organs that currently lies hidden in research articles in an unstructured and disorganized form. The project would utilize large biological community, both students and scientists, for extracting and adding the information from scientific literature at the level of cells and organs. The database would eventually help researchers in identifying gaps in current knowledge and help in future projects in diagnostics and disease biology.

The idea emerged from the success of “Smart India hackathon”, a nationwide contest in which large number of engineering students are being encouraged to find solutions to the pressing problems. In the same way, Manav will engage biology students to build their skills in reading scientific literature and deepen their understanding of biological system. In this public-private venture, DBT and Persistent Systems will invest Rs 13 crore and Rs 7 crore respectively. The project will be executed by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and National Center for Cell Sciences (NCCS) based at Pune. While the institutes will train students, the technology platform and data management will be provided by the private partner. Students and faculty from DBT Star colleges and Biotechnology Information network system (BTIS) network will also be involved. The project team is in talks with other scientific agencies such as the All India Council of Technical Education, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), University Grants Commission and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for possible collaboration.

This initiative will not only seal the gaps in knowledge on human body but will also create a trained population of biologists. With the data curation and analysis skills imparted during this project, students will have better opportunities for the job in life science sector. The undergraduates and postgraduates from the various distinct fields of biology such as zoology, biotechnology, botany, biochemistry, pharmacology and medical sciences can register and contribute to this project. A similar Human Cell Atlas project was launched in 2016 as a collaborative effort between scientists. This project is designed to generate data pertaining to cellular and molecular activities of various cell types in the body in both its normal and disease state using techniques such as single cell genomics. The Indian project, on the other hand, depends on the knowledge already available in scientific literature to derive information on cellular network. The project will be executed in four steps. First will be creation of a robust online data annotation platform. Second step would involve data annotation and curation by students on the platform. Evaluation of generated data and model by faculty and then senior scientists for quality check would constitute third step. Finally, integration of data, model building and visualization. Currently the project is in its beta testing mode where students are being trained at NCCS, Pune campus to annotate and curate the molecular data related to research on human skin and assign them to



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various cells, tissues and organs via the newly created annotation platform. The information obtained will be checked by teachers and scientists. The team says that the feedback from students and faculty would help in fine tuning the system. The training in future will be conducted through webinars which will ensure involvement of larger student community from across the country can contribute to this project.

3. Which of the following statement is correct regarding photovoltaic cell?

- (a) It converts mechanical energy into chemical energy.
- (b) It converts chemical energy into electric energy.
- (c) It converts light energy into electric energy.
- (d) It converts mechanical energy into light energy

Answer-c

A photovoltaic (PV) cell is an energy harvesting technology, that converts solar energy into useful electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. There are several different types of PV cells which all use semiconductors to interact with incoming photons from the Sun in order to generate an electric current. The photovoltaic effect is a process that generates voltage or electric current in a photovoltaic cell when it is exposed to sunlight. These solar cells are composed of two different types of semiconductors—a p-type and an n-type—that are joined together to create a p-n junction. By joining these two types of semiconductors, an electric field is formed in the region of the junction as electrons move to the positive p-side and holes move to the negative n-side. This field causes negatively charged particles to move in one direction and positively charged particles in the other direction. Light is composed of photons, which are simply small bundles of electromagnetic radiation or energy. When light of a suitable wavelength is incident on these cells, energy from the photon is transferred to an electron of the semiconducting material, causing it to jump to a higher energy state known as the conduction band. In their excited state in the conduction band, these electrons are free to move through the material, and it is this motion of the electron that creates an electric current in the cell.

4. Berne Convention is related to which of the following?

- (a) Safeguarding Human Rights
- (b) Copyright Infringement laws
- (c) Damage Caused by Foreign aircraft to third Parties
- (d) Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Answer-b

The Berne Convention, adopted in 1886, deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors. It provides creators such as authors, musicians, poets, painters etc. with the means to control how their works are used, by whom, and on what terms. It is based on three basic principles and contains a series of provisions determining the minimum



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protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries that want to make use of them.

5. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Golden rice is the collective name of rice varieties that are genetically modified to counter vitamin A deficiency in developing countries.
2. European scientists developed the first strain of Golden Rice towards the end of the 2000.
3. Vitamin A deficiency generally occurs due to an imbalanced diet including limited access to fresh fruit, vegetables and animal products.
4. Provitamin A colors the grains yellow orange, hence the name 'Golden Rice'.

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

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

ANSWER-a

Golden rice is a variety of rice (*Oryza sativa*) produced through genetic engineering to biosynthesize beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, in the edible parts of rice.[1][2] It is intended to produce a fortified food to be grown and consumed in areas with a shortage of dietary vitamin A. Golden rice is the collective name of rice varieties that are genetically modified to counter vitamin A deficiency in developing countries. European scientists developed the first strain of Golden Rice towards the end of the 1990s. Golden rice differs from standard rice in that it contains extra genes one from maize and one from bacterial origin together responsible for the production of provitamin A (betacarotene) in the rice grain. Provitamin A colors the grains yelloworange, hence the name 'Golden Rice'. Once absorbed into the body, provitamin A is converted into vitamin A. Provitamin A is found in many fruits and vegetables; it is also what makes carrots orange, for example. Research has indicated that one cup of Golden

Rice can provide up to 50 per cent of the daily requirement of an adult for vitamin A. The Golden Rice can be grown just the same way we grow normal rice. There is no change in cost of cultivation. It reduces water use by up to 30 per cent without any yield loss. It should not be stored for more than three months. It may lose its nutrients after that.

Vitamin A deficiency generally occurs due to an imbalanced diet including limited access to fresh fruit, vegetables and animal products. Persistent deficiency in this vital nutrient can result in blindness, illness and even death. Vitamin A deficiency also compromises the immune system, which means children die from common diseases including diarrhea,

Economy

Question 1.

Which of the following can be the likely reasons for slowdown in the economy?

1. Rise in investment rates
2. Decrease in consumption expenditure
3. High policy rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

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



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D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer C:

Explanation;

The slowdown is a part of a longer-term structural shift wherein the Economy is shifting gears from the high investment era to a low investment era as well as a transition from being cash-driven economy to a digitally enabled economy. High policy rates have been always restraints in growth.

Indeed, this can be seen most in the Real Estate Sector that has come to a grind in recent months and hence, has also contributed to the slowdown. All in all, multiple factors have caused a Perfect Storm for the Indian Economy, and there has to be a time lag before one can reasonably and realistically expect a turnaround.

Question 2.

Which of the following country has removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. USA

Answer D:

Explanation;

The US government has removed India from its monitoring list for currency manipulation, clearing doubts over India's foreign exchange policies including undervaluation of currencies to gain export advantages.

India maintains ample reserves according to the IMF metrics for reserve adequacy, as per the Treasury Department report.

Question 3.

Consider the following statements:

1. Government of India has merged NSSO and CSO to constitute National Statistical Commission.
2. Rangarajan Committee suggested to create National Statistical Office and National Statistical Commission.
3. National Statistical Commission has been constituted through an act of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer C:

Explanation:

The new NSO as an agency was envisaged firstly by **Rangarajan Commission** to implement and maintain statistical standards and coordinate statistical activities of Central and State agencies as laid down by the National Statistical Commission (NSC). This commission had also recommended setting up of the NSC, headed by a person with a Minister of State-level designation, to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country. According to recent order, NSO will be formed with the merger of NSSO and CSO under MoSPI.

Question 4.



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Consider the following statements related to Facility to Avail Liquidity under Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR):

1. It refers to the percentage of deposits under the SLR which can be considered for the calculation of LCR.
2. Presently, the FALLCR is applicable to both the Banks and all categories of NBFCs.

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:

With a view to move further towards harmonisation of the effective liquidity requirements of banks with the LCR-liquidity coverage ratio, it has been decided to permit banks to reckon an additional 2 per cent of government securities within the mandatory SLR requirement as the Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR) for the purpose of computing liquidity coverage ratio, LCR, in a phased manner.

Question 5.

Which among the following can be considered as High Quality Liquidity Assets (HQLAs) for the Calculation for Liquidity Coverage Ratio by the Banks?

1. CRR Deposits of the Banks with RBI.
2. Entire Deposits under the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
3. Government Securities outside SLR
4. Cash reserves outside the CRR
5. Highly rated corporate Bonds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer C:

Explanation:

LCR, is a ratio of two factors, viz, the Stock of HQLA and the Net Cash Outflows over the next 30 calendar days.

Liquid assets comprise of high quality assets that can be readily sold or used as collateral to obtain funds in a range of stress scenarios. They should be unencumbered i.e. without legal, 5 regulatory or operational impediments. Assets are considered to be high quality liquid assets if they can be easily and immediately converted into cash at little or no loss of value. The liquidity of an asset depends on the underlying stress scenario, the volume to be monetized and the timeframe considered.

Nevertheless, there are certain assets that are more likely to generate funds without incurring large discounts due to fire-sales even in times of stress.

Polity



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Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Inner Line Permit.

1. The ILP is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states.
2. It can be issued for travel purposes solely.
3. An ILP is issued by the Union government.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured the civil society groups that the Citizenship Bill would provide protection to such regions and states where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is applicable, and autonomous administration has been granted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

What is an ILP?

Simply put, an Inner Line Permit is a document that allows an Indian citizen to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system. The ILP is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states. Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. It can be issued for travel purposes solely. An ILP is issued by the state government concerned.

Origin of ILP:

ILP's origin dates back to the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873- It prohibited "British subjects" or Indians from entering into these protected areas. After Independence, in 1950, the word "British subjects" was replaced by Citizens of India and the focus of the ban on free movement was explained as a bid to protect tribal cultures in northeastern India.

Question 2:

Operation 'Clean Art', recently in the news, attempts to stop the smuggling of

Options:

- A. Rhino's horn
- B. Elephant teeth
- C. Mongoose hair
- D. Crocodile skin

Answer: C



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Explanation:

It is first pan India operation to crackdown on the smuggling of mongoose hair. Conceived by WCCB, its aim is to ensure that the mongoose hair brush trade should be closed down across the country. Mongoose is listed in Schedule II Part 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act. Any smuggling or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

1. It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
2. It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
3. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
4. The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Government to set up National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Bench in Chennai. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Functions:

- It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Composition:

- The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:

- Chief Justice of India or his nominee—Chairperson.
- A senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member.
- Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member.
- Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member.



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- Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements.

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology.
2. A stagnant or declining population.
3. Extremely low literacy.
4. A subsistence level of economy.

Which of the above is not a criterion for the determination of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

Options:

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 & 3 only
- C. 4 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs recently informed about the funds released under the PVTGs scheme, to the Parliament.

About 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)':

PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. They have declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward. They generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support.

Identification:

In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).

Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

Scheme for development of PVTGs:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them.
- Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment, which are then appraised and approved by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Ministry.
- Priority is also assigned to PVTGs under the schemes of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Scheme(TSS), Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of Schedule Tribes and Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts.

The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:

- A pre-agriculture level of technology.



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- A stagnant or declining population.
- Extremely low literacy.
- A subsistence level of economy.

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons.

1. It is a pension scheme for the Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons) with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 5 crore.
2. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
3. The enrolment is based upon self-certification.
4. It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is a pension scheme for the Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons) with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
- The enrolment under the scheme is free of cost for the beneficiaries.
- The enrolment is based upon self-certification.
- It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Central Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.

Eligibility:

Beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only. He/ She should be within 18 to 40 years of age group.

GSTIN is required only for those with turnover above Rs. 40 lakhs.

The beneficiary should not be income tax payer and also not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt.)/PM-SYM.



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International Relations

Question 1:

The 2+2 dialogue between India & the US witnesses participation from whom among the following from the Indian side?

Options:

- E. Home & Foreign Ministers
- F. Defence & Home Ministers
- G. Defence & Foreign Ministers
- H. Prime Minister & Foreign Ministers

Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, the second edition of India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue took place in Washington D.C., U.S.A. The 2+2 dialogue is an official meeting between foreign & defence ministers of India & U.S.A. This mechanism was conceptualised in 2017 with an aim to enhance the Indo-US engagement on multiple issues ranging from defence, trade, policies that affects both countries relation, role in Indo-pacific region & terrorism etc. The inaugural '2+2' Indo-US dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018.

Importance of 2+2 mechanism

It is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries and provides for a review of the security, defence and strategic partnership between India and the United States. A crucial advantage emanating from this format is that the strategic matters of vital importance which fall under the domain of both the external affairs as well as defence ministries, are comprehensively covered and any issue of jurisdiction and follow up is taken care of. Given the recent challenges in relations between two nations – emanating from Trump on trade and the US Congress on Kashmir – the delineation of strategic ties is set to be the biggest takeaway from this high-level engagement. It moves away from the erstwhile approach of depending on the personal chemistry between political leaders.

Question 2:

Apart from the US, India also has a 2+2 dialogue mechanism with which of the following nations?

1. Russia
2. Japan
3. China
4. Australia

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Other 2+2 dialogues of India -

With Australia- Defense Secretary and Foreign Secretary

With Japan- Foreign and Defence Ministerial dialogue

Question 3:

'Power of Siberia' is a natural gas pipeline between which of the following nations?

Options:

- A. Russia & Kazakhstan
- B. Mongolia & China
- C. China & Russia
- D. Turkmenistan & Iran

Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, China and Russia inaugurated the first crossborder pipeline between their countries, called the "Power of Siberia". The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations between Russia and China.

About the Power of Siberia project

The central aim of this gas pipeline is to pump natural gas to China from Russia's far-east regions like Yakutia. Construction for this pipeline started in 2014. The pipeline is over 4,000 km in length and has an annual capacity of over 61 billion cubic metres.

Importance of the project:

China is the world's largest energy importer and consumer. It will help China to move away from coal to cleaner alternatives. Russia is home to the largest reserves of natural gas on the planet which is 20% of the global total. The pipeline is a hedge against a potentially shrinking market in Europe, due to souring diplomatic relations.

Question 4:

Which of the following nations has the largest natural gas reserves in the world?

Options:



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- A. Brunei
- B. UAE
- C. Iran
- D. Russia

Answer: D

Explanation:

China is the world's largest energy importer and consumer. It will help China to move away from coal to cleaner alternatives. Russia is home to the largest reserves of natural gas on the planet which is 20% of the global total. The pipeline is a hedge against a potentially shrinking market in Europe, due to souring diplomatic relations.

Question 5:

The 'Dag Hammarskjöld Medal' is awarded to

Options:

- A. members of peacekeeping operations who lost their lives during service with a peacekeeping operation.
- B. Children below 18 years of age showing courage in difficult situations
- C. Women fighting for their rights
- D. Individuals fighting for the cause of racism

Answer: A

Explanation:

Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan received prestigious UN medal. About 850 Indian peacekeepers serving in South Sudan have been awarded for their service and contribution to building peace in the strife-torn nation and supporting the local communities. Currently, 2,342 Indian troops and 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

About UN Peacekeeping Forces

UN Peacekeeping is an instrument developed by the UN as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace. The first UN peacekeeping mission was established in May 1948, when the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Currently, more than 110,000 military, police and civilian personnel from 125 countries currently serve in 14 peacekeeping operations. The financial resources of UN Peacekeeping operations are the collective responsibility of UN Member States. Decisions about the establishment, maintenance or expansion of peacekeeping operations are taken by the United Nations Security Council.

Types of Medals given by UN

Dag Hammarskjöld Medal: A posthumous award to members of peacekeeping operations who lost their lives during service with a peacekeeping operation.

Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal: To be awarded to those military, police, civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel who demonstrate exceptional courage.

UN Medal: To be awarded to military personnel and civilian police who are or have been in the service of the United Nations.



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History

Question 1. Who pioneered the movement leading to Widow Remarriage Act?

- Swami Vivekanand.
- Raja Rammohan Roy.
- Keshab Chandra Sen.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's** greatest contribution was to the cause of widow upliftment and girl education. He played a great role in the passing of the law which made the marriage of widows legal. He personally took part in the first **widow remarriage that was performed in Calcutta in 1856**. He was attacked by the orthodox Hindus for his powerful support to the cause of widow remarriage as well as for his efforts at promoting education of girls.
- The enactment of The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 was a major social reform to improve the condition of the widow in India. Before this law the custom of Sati was also abolished by the Lord William Bentinck in 1829.
- The draft of the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 was prepared and passed by Lord Dalhousie.
- At the time of implementation of this Widow Remarriage Act 1856; the Governor-General of India was Lord Canning.

Question 2. Who established the first French Factory at Surat in 1668?

- Franacis Caron.
- Dupleix.
- Palsaert.
- Travernier.

Ans. a.

Explanation:

- **Jean-Baptiste Colbert founded the French East India Company in 1664**. The initial attempts of the company to found a successful colony on Madagascar got failed.
- In 1667-68, **under Francis Caron**, the company established first factory at Surat and second factory was established at Masulipattanam a year later.
- In 1674, the François Martin of French East India Company established a trading center at Pondicherry, which eventually became the chief French settlement in India.

Question 3. Which one of the following was not the innovations introduced by Tipu Sultan?



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- a. A new calendar.
- b. A new method of land survey.
- c. A new system of currency.
- d. New scales of weight and measures.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- Tipu thoroughly reorganised the armed forces, and established a Board of Admiralty to streamline the fleet of fighting and mercantile vessels.
- He ordered the issue of new coinage.
- His decree for prohibition of the sale of liquor and reform of the calendar was largely welcomed as also the introduction of new scales of weights and measures.
- He made experiments in commerce, and adopted novel revenue and judicial regulations.
- Tipu had a passion for changing the names of towns and cities under his domain. He was endowed with unusually great creative ability and flair for modernisation.
- Even James Mill, who was not specially fond of Tipu, was compelled to declare that "...as a domestic ruler, he sustains an advantageous comparison with the greatest princes of the East."

Question 4. 'Wardha scheme of basic education' was proposed by-

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru.
- b. M.A. Jinnah.
- c. Mahatma Gandhi.
- d. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Ans. c.

Explanation:

- Wardha Scheme of Basic Education (1937) which is also known as Nai Talim / Buniyadi talim was the outcome of thinking of **Mahatma Gandhi**. He considered education as an effective instrument of national reconstruction.
- Following Wardha conference, a committee under Dr. Zakir Hussain was appointed to formulate the scheme of the basic education. The aim of the basic education was to develop the qualities of the ideal citizenship and more aspect should be give to the Indian culture than the literacy.

Question 5. Which one among the following were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse of Lord Dalhousie?

1. Satara.
2. Udaipur
3. Oudh
4. Nagpur.



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Select the correct code:

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

Ans. c.

Explanation:

- The company took over the princely states of [Satara](#) (1848), [Jaitpur](#) and [Sambalpur](#) (1849), [Nagpur](#) and [Jhansi](#) (1854), [Tore](#) and [Arcot](#) (1855) and [Udaipur \(Chhattisgarh\)](#) under the terms of the doctrine of lapse.
- [Oudh](#) (1856) is widely believed to have been annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse. However, it was annexed by Lord Dalhousie under **the pretext of misgovernance**.
- Udaipur State, however, would have local rule reinstated by the British in 1860 .

Geography

1) Recently, National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is all set to distribute about 6 lakh metric tonnes pulses to around 20 crore households through ration shops for 3 months to meet the protein needs of people during this hour of crisis due to COVID-19 lockdown. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It was founded in 1958 and functions under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- (ii) Its target is one kilogram of pulses to every household.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

Answer c

Explanation :-

NAFED: It refers to the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India. NAFED is an apex organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India. It was founded on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 1958. It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture,



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Government of India. It was founded with an aim to promote the trade of agricultural produce and forest resources across the nation. It is registered under Multi State Co-operative Societies Act. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It is currently one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India. Its 4 regional offices are at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The current Chairman of NAFED is ex-MLA Dr. Bijender Singh.

Recently, NAFED, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is all set to distribute about 6 lakh metric tonnes pulses to around 20 crore households through ration shops for 3 months. The quota for the first month will be received by the beneficiaries within April or latest by the first week of May. The pulses are distributed under the National food Security Act. The main objective of the distribution of pulses is to meet the protein needs of people during this hour of crisis due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Under the scheme, a massive operation for transport and milling of pulses is underway in the country to distribute one kilogram of pulses to every household. Careful planning of this huge operation includes cleaning unmilled pulses and then transporting them to the states for distribution.

National Food Security Act (NFSA): The National Food Security Act, is an Act of the Parliament of India. The act was introduced by the Government of India (GoI) in 2013. The main aim of the Act is to ensure food security in India, chiefly by providing cereals at subsidized prices through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for about two-thirds of households.

- 2) Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution approved the integration of five states and Union Territories under "One Nation One Ration Card". Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It is for inter-state portability of ration cards.
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not its part.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

Answer a

Explanation :-

Union Consumer Affairs Ministry: The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is a government ministry of India. It was formed on 2 September 1946. It is headquartered in Sansad Bhavan, New Delhi. The ministry is divided into two departments, the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Department of Consumer Affairs was constituted as a separate Department in June 1997. The Ministry is headed by a Cabinet rank minister. The current Minister of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is Ram Vilas Paswan.

Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution approved the integration of five states and Union Territories under "One Nation One Ration Card". It was approved by the Consumers Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. These states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and



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Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Twelve states are already a part One Nation, One Ration Card plan. The states were Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tripura.

The main objective of One Nation One Ration Card plan is inter-state portability of ration cards. Under this plan, an individual who uses his ration card to buy food grains under the Public Distribution System can reap the same benefits if they happen to shift to another state anywhere in these 17 States and UTs by that falls under the said plan. The scheme will be very beneficial to the migrant workers. In India about 37% of the population is migrant labourers. The beneficiaries will now be entitled to lift the given quota of foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice. The government also has plans of integrating the PDS with the Depo Online System.

National Food Security Act (NFSA): The National Food Security Act, is an Act of the Parliament of India. The act was introduced by the Government of India (GoI) in 2013. The main aim of the Act is to ensure food security in India, chiefly by providing cereals at subsidized prices through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for about two-thirds of households.

Ration card: It is an official document issued by the Government of India. The card allows a household to buy subsidized food grains from the Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act.

3) Consider the following statements on National Thermal Power Corporation Limited :-

- (i) NTPC has planned to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric cars in North East India.
- (ii) The main purpose of NTPC is electricity generation and distribution but it is not concerned with natural gas exploration and distribution.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

Answer d

Explanation :-

NTPC Limited: It refers to National Thermal Power Corporation Limited. It is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities. It is a company founded on 7 November 1975. It was incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is promoted by the Government of India. It is India's largest power producer & a central PSU under Ministry of Power. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The main purpose of NTPC is electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution. The current Chairman and MD of NTPC Ltd: is Gurdeep Singh.



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Recently, NTPC for the first time has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric cars in Leh and Delhi.

The EoI has been issued by NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam. The initiative has been undertaken with the support from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The main aim of this move is to launch hydrogen-powered vehicles at the decarbonizing quality phase. It will provide complete solutions from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle.

4) Recently, NCSTC, Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19. It was launched on 30th April 2020. The programme is a comprehensive science and health communication initiative to promote grass-root level response on health. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) The programme will be launched only in English and Hindi for a pan India acceptability.
- (ii) This initiative will involve academic, media, research and voluntary organizations to prepare for emergency and also to address challenges.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both
- (d) none

Answer b

Explanation :-

NCSTC: It refers to National Council for Science & Technology Communication. NCSTC functions under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). It was established in 1982. It is a scientific programme of the Government of India (GoI) for the popularization of science, dissemination of scientific knowledge and inculcation of scientific temper.

Recently, NCSTC, Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19. It was launched on 30th April 2020. The programme is a comprehensive science and health communication initiative to promote grass-root level response on health.

The main objective of YASH programme is to minimize risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities and also help in encouraging public understanding of safety measures like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing etc.

NCSTC, under this initiative has planned involve academic, media, research and voluntary organizations to prepare for emergency and also to address challenges. It will include health, science



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and risk communication software, audio-visual, folk performances, digital platforms and communicators to address the challenges. The programme will be launched in regional languages.

- 5) **The** first ever virtual 11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue due to Covid 19 was hosted by which country :-
- (a) United Kingdom
 - (b) France
 - (c) Germany
 - (d) Japan

Answer c

Explanation :-

11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue: India, recently, attended the first ever virtual 11th session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue. India was represented by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Prakash Javadekar. The dialogue was hosted by Germany and was co-chaired by the United Kingdom. Over 30 countries participated in the dialogue.

The Dialogue was held via video conferencing. The measures to tackle COVID-19, save lives and to overcome social and economic consequences of the disease was discussed at the Dialogue. In this dialogue, India suggested having a Climate Technology that is open to everyone at an affordable cost. The minister also suggested that a plan for 1 trillion USD in grants to be created to develop the world immediately.