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Date: 17th May 2020 (Set 20)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the International Intellectual Property Index 2020:

1. World Intellectual Property Organisation(WIPO) has released the International Intellectual Property Index 2020.
2. India has been ranked at 40th out of 53 countries in the index.

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:

The U.S Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the International Intellectual Property Index 2020.

The index maps the Intellectual Property (IP) ecosystem in 53 global economies representing over 90% of global GDP.

It uses 50 unique indicators which span across nine categories of protection namely patents, copyrights, trademarks, design rights, trade secrets, commercialization of IP assets, enforcement, systemic efficiency and membership and ratification of international treaties.

The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the index.

India has been ranked at 40th out of 53 countries in the index. It was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in 2019.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the National Technical Textiles Mission:

1. The Mission will be implemented for four years from 2020-2021
2. Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties .

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:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of a National Technical Textiles Mission at an total outlay of ₹1,480 Crore.

The Mission will be implemented for four years from 2020-2021 and will have four components:

The first component will focus on research and development and innovation and will have an outlay of ₹1,000 crore. The research will be at both, fibre level and application-based in geo, agro, medical,

sports and mobile textiles and development of biodegradable technical textiles.

The second component will be for promotion and development of the market for technical textiles. The

Mission will aim at taking the domestic market size to \$40 billion to \$50 billion by 2024.

The third component will focus on export promotion so that technical textile exports from the country reach from the ₹14,000 crore now to ₹20,000 crore by 2021-2022 and ensure 10% average growth

every year till the Mission ends.

The last component will be on education, training and skill development.

Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.



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Technical textiles include textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles, geotextiles, agrotextiles, and protective clothing.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the United Nations Conference on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals:

1. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).
2. It is the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.
3. It was signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, and entered into force in 1983.

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

United Nations Conference on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (COP13) will be

inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister on February 17 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The United Nations Conference on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

It acts as a framework convention and encourages its States Parties to conclude global or regional agreements.

It was signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, and entered into force in 1983.

Aim: conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats



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It is the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.

Appendices of CMS:

- o Appendix I – Threatened Migratory Species
- o Appendix II – Migratory Species requiring international cooperation

Parties to the Convention: 129 parties including India

CMS COP13 Theme: 'Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home'.

Question 4:

Muktoshri , recently in news, is associated with which of the following

Options:

- A. new variety of rice
- B. new wheat variety
- C. new grape variety
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Researchers from West Bengal's have developed a rice variety called Muktoshri, that is resistant to arsenic. It has been jointly developed by the Rice Research Station at Chinsurah, under West Bengal's Agriculture Department and the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

Question 5:



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With reference to the Nilgiri Tahr, consider the following statements:

1. It is the State animal of Tamil Nadu.
2. It is classified as "Endangered" by the IUCN.

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:

Nilgiri Tahr is the **State animal of Tamil Nadu**.

It is classified as "**Endangered**" by the IUCN.

It has been listed under **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

It is **endemic to the Nilgiri Hills** and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Nilgiri tahr inhabits the **open montane grassland** habitats of the **South Western Ghats**.

Eravikulam National Park in Kerala is home to the largest population.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statements regarding National nutrition survey 2019:

1. One in five children in the age group 5 to 9 years was stunted
2. Tamilnadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.
3. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

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



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(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer-d

The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF between February 2016 and October 2018 is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies through biochemical measures such as blood and urine samples, anthropometric data as well as details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents.

Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic, 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure. These are among the key findings of the first-ever national nutrition survey conducted by the Centre, yet to be made public, providing for the first time hard evidence of the coexistence of obesity and undernutrition, among school going children.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS), however, collects anthropometric data (weight for age, height for age, weight for height, mid-upper arm circumference) to measure prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight and household dietary intake to measure deficiencies. Tamilnadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight. On 1 April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

2. Recently launched TechSagar is a –

(a) Battle Ship

(b) Super Computer

(c) Online portal

(d) Submarine

Answer-c

National Cyber Security Coordinator's office in partnership with DSCI has launched an online portal 'TechSagar' that will list and provide information on business and research entities from the IT industry, startups, academia and individual researchers. TechSagar is a consolidated and comprehensive repository of India's cybertech capabilities which provides actionable insights about capabilities of the Indian industry, academia & research; across 25



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technology areas like IoT, AI/ML, blockchain, cloud & virtualisation, robotics & automation, AR/VR, wireless & networking,

3. Consider the following statement regarding Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

1. The state Government has launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) to provide quality healthcare at zero cost to pregnant women, new mothers and newborns.
2. All pregnant women, newborns and mothers up to 6 months of delivery will be able to avail several free health care services.
3. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services.

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

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

Answer-b

The Union Government has launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) to provide quality healthcare at zero cost to pregnant women, new mothers and newborn. It aims to provide dignified and quality health care at no cost to every woman and

newborn visiting a public health facility. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services. These include at least four ante natal check-ups that also include one checkup during the 1st trimester, at least one checkup under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, Iron Folic Acid supplementation, Tetanus diphtheria injection.

Eligibility:

- All pregnant women, newborns and mothers up to 6 months of delivery will be able to avail several free health care services.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines quality of care for mothers and newborns as “the extent to which health care services provided to individuals and patient populations improve desired health outcomes. In order to achieve this, health care must be safe, effective, timely, efficiently integrated, equitable and people-centered



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4. Consider the following statement regarding which is not true-

1. India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has seen a decline from 130 per 1 lakh.
2. Uttar Pradesh has shown the highest percentage decline in MMR.
3. MMR data of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand has been released for the first time in the SRS 2015-2017 bulletin.
4. India achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of an MMR below 70 by 2030.

Answer-b

India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has seen a decline from 130 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to 122 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-2017. A decline of 8 points (6.2%) was observed during this period, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) 2015-2017 bulletin for MMR released on Thursday. While Karnataka has shown the highest percentage decline in MMR, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have shown an increase by 15 points each in MMR. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand and Assam fall under the EAG and Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are in the southern States group. "Others" comprise the remaining States and Union Territories. The decline has been most significant in EAG States from 188 to 175. The ratio has reduced considerably from 77 to 72 per 1,00,000 live births among southern states and in the other states from 93 to 90. Independent MMR data of Jharkhand (76), Chhattisgarh (141) and Uttarakhand (89) has been released for the first time in the SRS 2015-2017 bulletin. While Rajasthan's MMR has shown the highest decrease by 13 points, followed by Odisha (12 points) and Karnataka (11 points), the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab have not shown any change in the ratio. Retaining its first position, Kerala has reduced its MMR from 46 in 2014-2016 to 42 in 2015-2017. Likewise, Maharashtra retained its second position with 55 (down from 61) and Tamil Nadu its third position with 63 (down from 66).

The WHO last year lauded India's progress in reducing the MMR saying the progress puts the country on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of an MMR below 70 by 2030.

5. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently launched a website and mobile App for which of the following section:

- (a) Internal trade
- (b) Intellectual Property Rights
- (c) Online trading
- (d) None of the above



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Answer-b

Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Guruprasad Mohapatra launched the website and mobile application [Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation] on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) today in New Delhi. The website and app has been developed by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)-DPIIT in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi. Secretary DPIIT said that it is an important project taken up by the Department as both the website and app will be very useful to the startup community which holds great promise for India and its economy. Startups are more tuned into investment and risk taking but lack legal knowledge and today when we are on the threshold of the fourth industrial revolution the interface between technology and law is growing and therefore it is very essential that a specialised website and app is available to help startups with the IP process, added Secretary DPIIT.

The modules of this e-learning platform [L2Pro India IP e-learning Platform and the L2Pro India Mobile App] will aid and enable youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and small and medium industries (SMEs) in understanding IPRs for their ownership and protection, integrate IP into business models and obtain value for their R&D efforts. The L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France, benefiting immensely from close collaboration with respective IP organizations and public research institutions. The learning app has been customized for India in order to ensure that innovation which is fundamental to startups are protected, managed and commercialised

Economy

Question 1.

With reference to Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a tool used by the Banks to borrow long term loans from the RBI.
2. The Banks use G-Secs which are part of SLR to borrow money from RBI.
3. The MSF is higher than the Repo rate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate refers to the rate at which the scheduled banks can borrow funds overnight from RBI against government securities. MSF is a very short term borrowing scheme for scheduled commercial banks. Banks may borrow funds through MSF during severe cash shortage or acute shortage of liquidity. Banks often face liquidity shortfalls due to mismatch in their deposit and loan portfolios. These are usually very short term and banks can borrow from RBI for one day period by offering dated government securities. MSF had been introduced by RBI to reduce volatility in the overnight lending rates in the inter-bank market and to enable smooth monetary transmission in the financial system.



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Question 2.

Which among the following Employment Survey Reports are published by National Statistical Office (NSO) in India?

1. Quarterly Employment Survey Report
2. Payroll Reporting Data
3. Periodic Labour Force Survey Report (PLFS)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer C:

Explanation:

The National Statistical Office (NSO) headed by a Director General is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis. Primarily data are collected through nation-wide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), etc. Besides these surveys, NSO collects data on rural and urban prices and plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban area units for use in sample surveys in urban areas.

NSO report is based on the payroll data of new subscribers of various social security schemes run by the ESIC, retirement fund body EPFO and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

It also conducts Periodic Labour Force Survey Report (PLFS).

Question 3.

Consider the following statements related to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

1. This scheme provides for direct income support only to those farmers having cultivable land up to 2 hectares.
2. Under this scheme, the government provides for income support of Rs 6000 per year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. The Scheme is effective from 1.12.2018.
- Under the Scheme an income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- each every four months.
- Definition of family for the Scheme is husband, wife and minor children.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.
- The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.



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- Farmers covered under the Exclusion Criteria of the Operational Guidelines are not eligible for the benefit of the Scheme.
- For enrollment, the farmer is required to approach the local patwari / revenue officer / Nodal Officer (PM-Kisan) nominated by the State Government.
- The Common Service Centres (CSCs) have also been authorized to do registration of the farmers for the Scheme upon payment of fees.
- Farmers can also do their self-registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal.
- Farmers can also edit their names in PM-Kisan database as per their Aadhaar database / card through the Farmers Corner in the portal.
- Farmers can also know the status of their payment through the Farmers Corner in the portal

Question 4.

With reference to inflation in India, which of the following statements is correct?

- A. Controlling inflation in India is the responsibility of Government of India only
- B. The RBI has no role in controlling the inflation
- C. Decreased money circulation help in controlling the inflation
- D. Increased money circulation helps in controlling inflation

Answer C:

Explanation:

One popular method of controlling inflation is through a contractionary monetary policy. The goal of a [contractionary policy](#) is to reduce the [money supply](#) within an economy by decreasing [bond prices](#) and increasing [interest rates](#). This helps reduce spending because when there is less money to go around: those who have money want to keep it and save it, instead of spending it. It also means there is less available credit, which can reduce spending. Reducing spending is important during inflation because it helps halt economic growth and, in turn, the rate of inflation.

Question 5.

Consider the following statements related to Government Debt:

1. In General, the Government debt of the developing economies is far higher than that of advanced economies.
2. Higher level of Government Debt leads to higher rate of inflation and may curb investment.

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:

It has been argued that if government deficits and debts become unsustainable, then the market will begin to anticipate lower levels of future output and higher levels of future base money.

If a government borrows too much, the government may be tempted to deal with the debt by increasing the money supply (printing money) and paying off the debt through inflation. But, if this happens investors will lose the real value of their bonds. The bonds will fall in value



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because inflation is reducing their real worth. (This is sometimes known as default through inflation). If investors fear inflation, they may sell bonds, causing interest rates to rise.

Polity

Question 1:

As per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, all listed public companies must have at least _____ of the total Directors to be independent.

Options:

- A. one-third
- B. half
- C. one-fourth
- D. two-third

Answer: A

Explanation:

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched the Independent Directors Databank in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder.

What is Independent directors databank?

Developed and maintained by the Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Who is an independent director?

- An Independent Director is a director on a board of directors representing minority shareholders and who does not have a pecuniary relationship with the company or related persons, except for sitting fees.
- Their role is to take a stand unambiguously and independently to have a check and balance on the exuberance of majority shareholders that may expose the company to unwarranted risks.
- The Companies Act, 2013 has mandated all listed public companies to have at least one-third of the total Directors to be independent.

Need for strengthening their role:

They must not assume a passive role. Their Strict accountability and eligibility will curb promoters placing their own ineligible candidates and family members on the listed company boards.

Question 2:

Eat Right movement, recently in the news, was launched by

Options:



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- A. FAO
- B. WHO
- C. FSSAI
- D. Union HRD Ministry

Answer: C

Explanation:

Western Railway's Mumbai Central Terminus has become India's first Eat Right Station. Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has rated the station with four stars.

Background:

- The station was graded on the basis of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation and food waste management among others.
- The food was certified and rated after a thorough inspection. 'Eat Right Station' is a part of the 'Eat Right India' initiative that was launched by FSSAI in 2018 to help passengers make a healthy choice.

About Eat Right Movement:

- It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.
- It also aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.

Measures in place:

- FSSAI has put in place robust regulatory measures under three major pillars: Eat Safe, Eat Health and Eat Sustainably for the programme.
- FSSAI has prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

Question 3:

'Hera mission', recently in the news, is a mission of

Options:

- A. ISRO
- B. NASA
- C. European Space Agency
- D. Roscosmos

Answer: C

Explanation:

The European Space Agency (ESA) has approved the budget of Hera, the European component of the mission to slam a spacecraft into an asteroid.

What is Hera?

Hera is the European contribution to an international double-spacecraft collaboration. Hera is named after the Greek goddess of marriage.

How is it planned?



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- Due to launch in 2024, Hera would travel to a binary asteroid system – the Didymos pair of near-Earth asteroids.
- NASA will first perform a kinetic impact on the smaller of the two bodies, then Hera will follow-up with a detailed post-impact survey that will turn this grand-scale experiment into a well-understood and repeatable planetary defence technique.

What is DART mission?

- Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) will target Didymoon as part of its planetary defence programme.
- DART will deliberately crash itself into the moonlet at a speed of approximately 6 km per second, using an onboard camera and autonomous navigation software.
- The collision will change the speed of the moonlet in its orbit around the main body.

Question 4:

The GOAL is a program aimed at guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities, launched by which of the following companies?

Options:

- A. Google
- B. Reliance
- C. Tata
- D. Facebook

Answer: D

Explanation:

The GOAL is a Facebook program aimed at guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities. The programme will help to connect underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills. It will help to close the digital gender gap by enabling more women to get online and access digital services.

Question 5:

The famous Indra Sawhney vs Union of India case in the Supreme court is related to which of the following

Options:

- A. Right to Life
- B. Fundamental Rights v/s Directive Principles
- C. Disqualification of Legislators
- D. Reservations

Answer: D

Explanation:



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Central government has asked the Supreme Court of India to refer to a seven-judge Bench the question whether the creamy layer concept should apply (or not) to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while giving them reservation in promotions.

What's the issue?

The Centre has asked the CJI to refer a September 26, 2018 judgment of a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in Jarnail Singh versus Lachmi Narain Gupta to a larger Bench of seven judges for a review.

In Jarnail Singh, the court had agreed with its 12-year-old verdict in the M. Nagaraj case that the creamy layer applied to SCs and STs in order to prevent the socially advanced in a backward community or class from eating the whole cake while leaving the weak among them impoverished.

What is the creamy layer concept?

- The 'means-test and creamy layer' first finds expression in the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in Indra Sawhney versus Union of India, delivered by a nine-judge Bench on November 16, 1992.
- 'Creamy layer' are "some members of a backward class who are highly advanced socially as well as economically and educationally.

Constitutional basis- Article 335:

- Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.
- Need: Centuries of discrimination and prejudice suffered by the SCs and STs in a feudal, caste-oriented societal structure poses real barriers of access to opportunity. The proviso contains a realistic recognition that unless special measures are adopted for the SCs and STs, the mandate of the Constitution for the consideration of their claim to appointment will remain illusory.

How was the creamy layer made applicable to SC/ST members?

Indra Sawhney vs Union of India:

In its landmark 1992 decision in Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, the Supreme Court had held that reservations under Article 16(4) could only be provided at the time of entry into government service but not in matters of promotion. And the principle would operate only prospectively and not affect promotions already made and reservation already provided in promotions shall continue in operation for a period of five years from the date of the judgment.

More significantly, It ruled that the creamy layer can be and must be excluded.

On June 17, 1995, Parliament, acting in its constituent capacity, adopted the seventy-seventh amendment by which clause (4A) was inserted into Article 16 to enable reservation to be made in promotion for SCs and STs.

The validity of the amendment was challenged before the Supreme Court in the Nagaraj case (2006).

Upholding the validity of Article 16 (4A), the court then said that it is an enabling provision. "The State is not bound to make reservation for the SCs and STs in promotions. But, if it seeks to do so, it must collect quantifiable data on three facets — the backwardness of the class; the inadequacy of the representation of that class in public employment; and the general efficiency of service as mandated by Article 335 would not be affected".

The court ruled that the constitutional amendments do not abrogate the fundamentals of equality.



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International Relations

Question 1:

FrogPhone, recently in the news, is

Options:

- A. An artificial species of frog developed by scientists at NASA
- B. World's first solar powered remote survey device
- C. World's first AI-powered animal robot
- D. World's first 6G capable mobile phone

Answer: B

Explanation:

It is the world's first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and which receives a 3G or 4G cellular network. Developed by a team from various Australian institutions.

The FrogPhone will allow researchers to dial these devices remotely, and analyse the data later. It will reduce costs and risks, including the negative impact of human presence on the field site. These devices also allow for monitoring of local frog populations more frequently than before, which is important because these populations are recognised as indicators of environmental health.

Question 2:

The Smoke that Thunders refers to which of the following?

Options:

- A. Frequent wildfires in California
- B. Australian wildfires
- C. Victoria Falls
- D. Last base camp before Mount Everest

Answer: C

Explanation:

The flow of Victoria Falls, with a width of 1.7 km and a height of roughly 108 metres, has been reduced to a trickle due to the severe droughts in the southern African region since October 2018. The falls are fed by the Zambezi river and define the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe in southern Africa. The falls are also referred to as "The Smoke that Thunders" and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Question 3:



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Consider the following statements about the Skill Build platform, recently launched in India.

1. India is the 2nd country after Bangladesh where this Skills Build platform has been launched.
2. It is a digital platform developed by IBM enabling holistic learning and aligning it with Skills India initiative by Government of India.
3. It has been launched by Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

India is the 4th country where this Skills Build platform has been launched on 4th Nov'19. It is a digital platform developed by IBM enabling holistic learning and aligning it with Skills India initiative by Government of India. Launched by Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). As part of the programme, a two-year advanced diploma in IT, networking and cloud computing, co-created and designed by IBM, will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) & National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

- The digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to the students.
- They will then learn foundational knowledge about digital technologies, as well as professional skills such as resume-writing, problem solving and communication.
- Students will also receive recommendations on role-based education for specific jobs that include technical and professional learning.
- This initiative is part of IBM's global commitment to create a job-ready workforce and to build the next generation of skills needed for new collar careers.

Question 4:

The 'One Country Two Systems approach' is related to which of the following nations?

Options:

- A. Israel
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Vatican City
- D. Hong Kong

Answer: D

Explanation:



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Hong Kong recently marked half-year protest anniversary with huge rally. Semi-autonomous Hong Kong has been battered by increasingly violent demonstrations in the starkest challenge the city has presented to Beijing since its 1997 handover from Britain. Millions have hit the streets in protests fuelled by years of growing fears that authoritarian China is stamping out the city's liberties. The last fortnight has seen a marked drop in street battles and protester vandalism after the landslide win by pro-democracy candidates.

How is Hong Kong ruled?

Rules under One Country Two Systems approach. As per the policy, the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions, both former colonies, can have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while being part of the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong returned to Chinese control on July 1, 1997, and Macau's sovereignty was transferred on December 20, 1999. Both regions became Special Administrative Regions of China. The regions would have their own currencies, economic and legal systems, but defence and diplomacy would be decided by Beijing. Their mini-Constitutions would remain valid for 50 years — till 2047 for Hong Kong and 2049 for Macau. It is unclear what will happen after this term.

Question 5:

'StrandHogg', recently in the news, refers to

Options:

- A. A malware
- B. A new application by Apple
- C. An AI initiative by Google
- D. A wearable smart device by Samsung

Answer: A

Explanation:

It is a Malware which allows real-time malware applications to pose as genuine applications and access user data of all kinds. Threats: It can listen to the conversations, access photo album, read/send messages, make calls, record conversations, get login credentials to various accounts, access private images, files, contact details, call logs and location information without being apparent to the affected users.

Why in News? The Union Home Ministry has alerted States, warning them about the vulnerability of the Android operating system to a bug called 'StrandHogg'.

History

QUESTION 1. What was the role played by the Indian press during the freedom struggle?

- a. Many newspapers actively spearheaded the freedom movement.



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- b. Only a few newspapers took active interest in the freedom struggle.
- c. The press was cold towards the freedom struggle.
- d. The Indian press was generally hostile towards the freedom movement.

Ans. a.

Explanation:

- James Augustus Hickey is considered the father of Indian press. He started the Bengal Gazette in the year 1780. But it was seized in the year 1872 as it was critical of the British Government.
- With the increasing number of newspapers, the government became accountable. Therefore, it brought into action several acts in order to suppress the press.

Question 2. For which of the following acts of terror were Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged on March 23, 1931?

- a. For the murder of Saunders at Lahore in 1928.
- b. For throwing a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929.
- c. Kakori Conspiracy case.
- d. Both (b) and (c).

Ans. a

Explanation:

- **Bhagat Singh**, Rajguru and Sukhdev were sentenced to death in the Lahore conspiracy case and ordered to be **hanged** on 31 March 1931.
- In the Lahore Conspiracy case, the DSP Saunders was killed to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Question 3. Who called Bal Gangadhar Tilak as the "father of Indian Unrest"?

- a. Lord Curzon.
- b. Aitchinson.
- c. Valentine Chirol.
- d. William Ward.

Ans. c

Explanation:

- **Valentine Chirol** was a British journalist, prolific author, historian and diplomat. He called Tilak as the father of Indian Unrest.

Question 4 . Dandi, where Mahatma Gandhi violated the salt law , is situated on the coast of-

- a. Maharashtra.
- b. Gujarat.
- c. Karnataka.
- d. Odisha.

Ans. B.

Explanation:

- Located In Gujarat.



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- The Salt March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, Dandi March and the Dandi Satyagraha, was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Question 5. Who gave the slogan of "Inquilab Zindabad"?

- a. Chandra Sekhar Azad.
- b. Hasrat Mohani.
- c. Bhagat Singh.
- d. Md. Iqbal.

Ans. B

Explanation:

- The famous slogan Inquilab Zindabad was given by Hasrat Mohani.
- The slogan was also used by Bhagat Singh, who shouted it after bombing the Central Assembly in Delhi. It became one of the rallying cries of the Indian independence movement.

Geography

1) Recently, CSIR has launched Kisan Sabha App. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It is an App to provide transport and logistics services to farmers.
- (ii) It is a step to fight against Covid 19.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

CSIR: It refers to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. CSIR was established on 26 September 1942. Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar was the Founder Director (and later first Director-General) of CSIR. It is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. It is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology and it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The main objective of CSIR was to bring science and technology to the country and develop research capabilities which would support industry.

Recently, CSIR has launched Kisan Sabha App. It is an App to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation Management System in the present situation of COVID 19. The app aims to provide the most economical and timely logistics support to the farmers by connecting transporters,



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Service providers like pesticides, fertilizer, dealers, cold store and warehouse owner, mandi dealers, customers and other related entities directly which in turn increases their profit margins by minimizing interference of middlemen and also directly connecting with the institutional buyers. It will help in providing best market rates of crops by comparing nearest mandis, booking of freight vehicle at cheapest cost thereby giving maximum benefit to the farmers.

2) Consider the following statements on **GI Tag** :-

- (i) It indicates a specific geographic location of the origin of product.
- (ii) The black rice of Manipur has received this tag.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

GI Tag: It refers to a geographical indication tag. GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin and in order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

The Chak-Hao which is the black rice of Manipur, and the Gorakhpur terracotta has got the GI tag. This was announced by Chinnaraja G. Naidu, deputy registrar, Geographical Indications.

3) **ATULYA** is a microwave steriliser to disintegrate COVID-19. ATULYA has been developed by Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune. Consider the following statements that :-

- (i) The temperature required to disintegrate the virus is more than 70 degree Celsius.
- (ii) The limitation of this device is that it can sterilize only metallic objects.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both



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(d) none

Answer d

Explanation :-

ATULYA: It is microwave steriliser called 'ATULYA' to "disintegrate" COVID-19. ATULYA has been developed by Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune. The virus gets disintegrated by differential heating in the range of 56 degree to 60 degree Celsius temperatures.

This system was tested for human and operator safety and has been found to be safe. Depending upon size and shape of various objects, time of sterilisation is from 30 seconds to one minute. The approximate weight of the system is 3 kilogrammes and it can be used for non-metallic objects only. It can be operated in portable or fixed installations.

- 4) Consider the following statements on Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) :-
- (i) It was constituted for NCR.
 - (ii) It includes the members from JNU and IIT Delhi.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

EPCA: It stands for the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority was constituted with the objective of 'protecting and improving' the quality of the environment and 'controlling environmental pollution' in the National Capital Region. The EPCA also assists the apex court in various environment-related matters in the region. EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986. Besides the chairman, the EPCA has 14 members, some of whom are the environment secretary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council, transport commissioner of the NCT, the commissioners of various municipal corporations of Delhi and professors at IIT Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University.



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5) Recently, NASA has honoured a 17 year old Indian-origin Girl Vaneeza by naming its First Mars helicopter based on her essay. What is the name of helicopter :-

- (a) Ingenuity
- (b) Perseverance
- (c) Dark Horse
- (d) Rover

Answer a

Explanation :-

NASA: It is an acronym for National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA is an independent agency of the United States Federal Government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. NASA was established in 1958, succeeding the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States. The Administrator of NASA is Jim Bridenstine and the Deputy Administrator of NASA is James Morhard.

Recently, NASA has honoured a 17 year old Indian-origin Girl Vaneeza by naming its First Mars helicopter as 'Ingenuity'. Vaneeza Rupani, a high school junior from Northport, Alabama had submitted her essay into NASA's "Name the Rover" contest. She has suggested the name 'INGENUITY' for the helicopter, which was chosen among 28,000 essays.

Earlier in March 2020 NASA had announced the name for its next rover to Mars as Perseverance. Perseverance and Ingenuity are scheduled to be launched in July 2020 and land at Mars in February 2021. Ingenuity will be the first aircraft to attempt powered flight on another planet.