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Date: 19th May 2020 (Set 22)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Vivaad se Vishwaas Scheme:

1. It is an amnesty scheme which aims at reducing tax litigations pending at various forums.
2. It deals with indirect taxes.

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: A

Explanation:

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to the 'Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020' in order to widen its scope to cover litigation pending in various Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).

Vivaad se Vishwaas is an amnesty scheme aimed at reducing tax litigations pending at various forums.

Under the proposed scheme, a taxpayer would be required to pay only the amount of the disputed taxes and will get complete waiver of interest and penalty provided he pays by March 31, 2020.

Those who avail this scheme after that will have to pay some additional amount. The scheme will remain open till June 30, 2020.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the Yaravirus:

1. The Yaravirus does not infect human cells.
2. The Yaravirus infects amoeba and has genes that have not been described before

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:

Researchers have discovered an unusually small virus in a lake Pampulha in Brazil.

The virus has been named Yaravirus after 'Yara', a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology.

The Yaravirus infects amoeba and has genes that have not been described before, something that could challenge how Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) viruses are classified.

DNA viruses are classified based on the protein that makes up their shell, or capsid. The Yaravirus' capsid doesn't resemble any previously known protein.

The Yaravirus does not infect human cells.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the Hope Mission:

1. It is a planned space exploration probe mission to Mars
2. It is funded by the United Arab Emirates
3. It is set for launch in 2020.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: C

Explanation:

The Hope Mars Mission is also called Emirates Mars Mission.

It is a planned space exploration probe mission to Mars funded by the United Arab Emirates and built

by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, University of Colorado, Arizona State University, and University of California, Berkeley and set for launch in 2020.

The probe will study the climate daily and through seasonal cycles, the weather events in the lower atmosphere such as dust storms, as well as the weather on Mars in different geographic areas.

The probe will attempt to answer the scientific community questions of why Mars atmosphere is losing

hydrogen and oxygen into space and the reason behind Mars drastic climate changes.

Question 4:

Mount Aconcagua is situated in which of the following continents:

Options:

- A. North America
- B. South America
- C. Africa
- D. Asia

Answer: B

Explanation:

At 6962 metres, Mt. Aconcagua is the highest peak outside Asia. It lies in the Southern Andes (the world's longest mountain range that is located along the entire western coast of South America).

Aconcagua is of volcanic origin, but it is not itself an active volcano.



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Question 5:

With reference to the Ujh Multipurpose Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project is planned to be constructed in Kathua District of Himachal Pradesh on the River Ujh.
2. River Ujh is a major tributary of River Sutlej.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Ujh Multipurpose Project is planned to be constructed in Kathua District of J&K on the River Ujh.

The project will store around 781 Million Cubic meter of waters of river Ujh.

River Ujh is a major tributary of River Ravi.

The Ujh river originates in Kailash mountains (near Bhaderwah hills, part of the Pir Panjal Range) at an altitude of 4,300 metres (14,100 ft).

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement regarding Avian Botulism –

1. Avian Botulism is a strain of botulism that affects wild and captive bird populations, most notably waterfowl.
2. Recently in Sambhar lakes of India, case of Avian Botulism has been witnessed.
3. Botulinum affects both humans and animals but the type of the toxin varies.



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4. Avian botulism occurs all over the world and is especially predominant in North American wetlands.

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

Avian Botulism is a strain of botulism that affects wild and captive bird populations, most notably waterfowl. This is a paralytic disease brought on by the Botulinum neurotoxin (BoNt) of the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. *C. botulinum* can fall into one of 7 different types which are strains A through G. Type C BoNt is most frequently associated with waterfowl mortality. The Type E strain is also commonly associated with avian outbreaks and is frequently found in fish species which is why most outbreaks occur in piscivorous birds. Avian botulism occurs all over the world and is especially predominant in North American wetlands. The degree of avian botulism outbreaks in populations is largely determined by how favorable conditions are for *C. botulinum*. Ideal conditions for the presence of the BoNt carrying bacterium consist of low-oxygen, high-protein available substrate. This is common of shallow and stagnant waterways. Other factors such as pH and temperature, as well as a likely number of unknown factors contribute to the prevalence of outbreaks. Geographic locations with great amounts of this habitat can be assumed to have a greater number of outbreaks. Notable locations include the Great Lakes, North Dakota, Japan, South Korea, and Saskatchewan. Botulinum affects both humans and animals but the type of the toxin varies — botulinum C in birds and A, B and E in humans. The toxin has been recognised as a major cause of mortality in wild birds since the 1900s.

Avian botulism killed over 18,000 birds in and around Rajasthan's Sambhar lake, the IndiaVeterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, said in a report released on November 21, 2019. The avian botulism that caused the mass die-off at Sambhar was caused by the climate, according to the IVRI report.

2. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. The Cartosat-3 satellite is a third-generation agile advanced satellite, which has a high resolution imaging capability.

2. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is going to launch Cartosat-3 along with 10 commercial nano satellites aboard PSLV-C42 into the Sun Synchronous orbit.



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3. The satellite will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra

Pradesh.

4. Cartosat-3, to boost the country's border security by stationing "more eyes in the sky".

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

Cartosat-3 satellite is a third generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability. Cartosat-3 will address the increased user's demands for large scale urban planning, rural resource and infrastructure development, coastal land use and land cover etc. India's PSLV-C47 successfully launched Cartosat-3 and 13 commercial nanosatellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. Cartosat-3 satellite is a third generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability.

13 Commercial Nanosatellites from USA were also successfully injected into designated orbit. These satellites were launched under commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

3. Exercise Samudra Shakti took place with the Navy of which of the following country recently at the Bay of Bengal?

(a) Thailand

(b) Indonesia

(c) Jamaica

(d) Sri Lanka

Answer –b

INS Kamorta, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette is jointly exercising with Indonesian Warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role Corvette in the Bay of Bengal as part of the ongoing Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' from 06 Nov to 07 Nov 19. The joint exercises include manoeuvres, Surface Warfare exercises, Air Defence exercises, Weapon firing drills, Helicopter Operations and Boarding Operations.



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KRI Usman Harun arrived Visakhapatnam on 04 Nov 19 to participate in the second edition Ex 'Samudra Shakti'. The Harbour Phase which was conducted on 04 and 05 November included professional interactions in the form of Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), cross deck visits, simulator drills, planning conferences, sports fixtures and social interactions.

4. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Semi-Dirac metals behave like Dirac metals in one direction and like normal metals in the perpendicular directions
2. Recently researchers from IIT Bombay institutions have discovered Semi-Dirac metals that have some special properties.
3. The term Dirac matter refers to a class of condensed matter systems which can be effectively described by the Dirac equation.
4. There are many known applications for transparent conducting films – the common example being touch screens used in mobiles.

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 –d

Researchers from IIT Bombay have discovered special properties in a class of materials called “semi-Dirac metals” that have been recently talked about in the scientific literature. Examples of semi-Dirac metals are systems such as $\text{TiO}_2/\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ nanostructures. Through calculations, the researchers have shown that such materials would be transparent to light of a given frequency and polarisation when it is incident along a particular direction. The material would be opaque to the same light when it falls on it from a different direction. There are many known applications for transparent conducting films – the common example being touch screens used in mobiles.

Normal metals like gold and silver are good conductors of electricity. A key aspect that decides the quality of conduction is the way energy depends on the momentum of electrons. Dirac metals differ from normal metals in that the energy depends linearly on the



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momentum. This difference is responsible for their unique properties. Semi-Dirac metals behave like Dirac metals in one direction and like normal metals in the perpendicular directions. Within any material, charge carriers, such as electrons, acquire an effective mass which is different from their bare mass depending on the nature of the material. The effective mass and the number of states available for the electron to occupy when it is excited by an electric field, for example, determine the conductivity and other such properties. This is also true of a semi-Dirac metal. In particular, the effective mass becomes zero for conduction along a special direction.

5. Virus is a small infectious agent that replicates only in the-

- (a) Water
- (b) Air
- (c) Nitrogen
- (d) Living cells of an organism

Answer-d

In a first, researchers have captured images of the formation of individual viruses, providing a detailed view of the mechanism with which particles self-assemble into the parasite -- an advance that may help us find new treatment approaches for viral diseases.

The study, published in the journal PNAS, looked at the formation of single-stranded RNA viruses -- the most abundant type of virus on the planet that is responsible for diseases like the West Nile fever, gastroenteritis, hand, foot, and mouth disease, polio, and the common cold.

The researchers, including those from Harvard University in the US, studied an RNA virus that infected the bacterium *E. coli*. The virus was about 30 nanometres in diameter (thousands of times smaller than the width of a single human hair), and had one piece of RNA with about 180 identical proteins, the study noted. According to the researchers, the proteins arranged themselves into hexagons and pentagons to form a soccer-ball-like enveloping structure around the RNA, called a capsid. The researchers mentioned that until now, scientists had not been able to observe how proteins formed the capsid structure in real time since the parasites and their components were very small, and their interactions were very weak.

Economy

Question 1.



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Consider the following statements:

1. Repo rate is always more than the reverse repo rate.
2. Bank rate is always less than the reverse repo rate

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:

Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks. The higher the repo rate the lesser the banks will borrow from RBI thereby reducing liquidity in the market and vice-versa.

Reverse repo rate is the rate at which RBI borrows from the commercial banks. The higher the reverse repo rate the more commercial banks will park their money in RBI thereby reducing the liquidity in the market and vice-versa.

Since RBI is a very secure institution, banks will prefer parking their money in RBI rather than giving loans to businesses and individuals.

Reverse repo rate is not kept high in order to avoid this scenario. This will ensure that the commercial banks will have sufficient funds to invest elsewhere or use as liquidity thereby increasing the buying capacity of the people.

Reverse repo rate is always lesser than repo rate so that the flow of money should be there from RBI to commercial banks. RBI doesn't want to keep all the money. The commercial banks and businesses need the money so that the economy has enough purchasing power

Question 2.

With regards to MSME sector in India, consider the following statements:

1. The percentage of Rural MSME enterprises is higher than of Urban MSME enterprises.
2. The employment rate of Urban MSME sector is higher than of Rural MSME sector.
3. Micro enterprise constitute the highest percentage of firms and of employment rate in both rural and urban MSME sectors

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

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

Answer D:

Explanation:

In India, capital is scarce and labour abundant. MSMEs are thought to have lower capital-output and capital-labour ratios than large-scale industries, and therefore, better serve growth and employment objectives. The MSME sector in India has grown significantly since 1960 – with an average annual growth rate of 4.4% in the number of units and 4.62% in employment (currently employing 30 million). Not only do MSMEs generate the highest employment per capita investment, but they also go a long way in checking rural-urban migration by providing people living in isolated areas with a sustainable source of employment.

Question 3.

Which among the following are the likely impacts of Insider Trading in India?

1. Unfair benefit to the people who have access to sensitive information.



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2. Lack of level playing field among the shareholders.
3. A sudden and drastic increase in the share prices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

Insider trading is defined as a malpractice wherein trade of a company's securities is undertaken by people who by virtue of their work have access to the otherwise non public information which can be crucial for making investment decisions.

When insiders, e.g. key employees or executives who have access to the strategic information about the company, use the same for trading in the company's stocks or securities, it is called insider trading and is highly discouraged by the Securities and Exchange Board of India to promote fair trading in the market for the benefit of the common investor.

Insider trading is an unfair practice, wherein the other stock holders are at a great disadvantage due to lack of important insider non-public information. However, in certain cases if the information has been made public, in a way that all concerned investors have access to it, that will not be a case of illegal insider trading.

Question 4.

With respect to the Basic Savings Bank deposit accounts, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Banks can offer cheque books for these accounts.
2. Total credits in their account cannot exceed 1 lakh/year
3. These accounts can be opened only by poor and weaker sections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

The Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account or BSBDA is a Savings Account that does not have a minimum balance but the bank allows a certain number of deposits and withdrawals in the month that are free of cost. As per RBI, Banks are advised to offer Basic Savings Bank Deposit account which will offer the following minimum facilities to its customers:

1. The 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' is a normal banking service account available for all.
2. There is no minimum balance requirement for the account.
3. The basic services available for the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account include deposit and withdrawal of cash at bank branch as well as ATMs; Even through electronic payment channels and cheques.
4. There is no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month. But the account holders will be allowed four withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals.
5. All the above facilities is free and for further detailed fees check website or get in touch with your near branch.



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Question 5.

Which among the following are the likely impacts of Fiscal Stimulus by the Government?

1. Increase in the Government Expenditure
2. Decrease in the Fiscal Deficit
3. Increase in the Tax Expenditure.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

Fiscal stimulus may refer to either **greater public spending** or **tax cuts**. In both cases, the government wants to boost economic growth. In the majority of cases, government bailout packages are also types of fiscal stimulus.

[A bailout occurs when the government](#), i.e., the taxpayer, saves a company from dying. It saves the company by buying it, arranging a loan, or injecting money into it.

The word '**fiscal**' [refers to government finances](#), i.e., [public expenditure or spending](#), taxation, and government debt.

Polity

Question 1:

Consider the following statements regarding the 6th schedule areas of the Constitution.

1. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
2. If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
3. Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
4. The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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The centre has asserted that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been tweaked so that states where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is applicable, and tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram that are notified under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution would be kept out of its purview.

What is 6th schedule?

Under Article 244, it deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).

Key provisions:

- The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
- Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
- The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
- Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
- Powers of councils: The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.
- Village councils: The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about Atal Bhujal Yojana.

1. It is a World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.
3. It aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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It is a Rs.6000 crore World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank. Aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.

Priority areas:

The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.

They also cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India – alluvial and hard rock aquifers- and have varying degrees of institutional readiness and experience in groundwater management.

Implementation of the scheme:

Funds under the scheme will be provided to the states for strengthening the institutions responsible for ground water governance, as well as for encouraging community involvement for improving ground water management to foster behavioural changes that promote conservation and efficient use of water. The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

1. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit rechristened from erstwhile Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
2. The scheme is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women.
3. They receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Concerns have been expressed over the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

About PMMVY:

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit rechristened from erstwhile Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY). The IGMSY was launched in 2010. The scheme is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women.

It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.



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They receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family. The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.

Exceptions: The maternity benefits are available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) except those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.

Question 4:

'Jaga Mission', recently in the news, is a famous initiative of which of the following states?

Options:

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Telangana
- C. Odisha
- D. Haryana

Answer: C

Explanation:

Odisha has won the 'World Habitat Award', global recognition for its ambitious initiative — Jaga Mission. Recently, this project was also awarded the 'India Geospatial Excellence Award' for technological innovation in transforming the lives of urban poor.

About Jaga mission:

What is it? Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission "JAGA" is a society under Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha. Composition: Headed by the Chief Secretary, Odisha as Chairman and Principal Secretary, H&UD as Member Secretary.

Question 5:

Consider the following statements regarding Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

1. It punishes anyone "who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property" with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both.
2. Public property under this Act includes "any building, installation or other property used in connection with the production, distribution or supply of water, light, power or energy; any oil installation; any sewage works; any mine or factory; any means of public transportation or of telecommunications, or any building, installation or other property used in connection therewith".

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: D

Explanation:

It punishes anyone “who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property” with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both. Provisions of this law can be coupled with those under the Indian Penal Code.

What is a public property?

Public property under this Act includes “any building, installation or other property used in connection with the production, distribution or supply of water, light, power or energy; any oil installation; any sewage works; any mine or factory; any means of public transportation or of telecommunications, or any building, installation or other property used in connection therewith”.

International Relations

Question 1:

Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to

Options:

- E. Eco
- F. Franc
- G. Rupiah
- H. Rand

Answer: A

Explanation:

Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco. CFA franc was their currency so far. The CFA franc was initially pegged to French franc and has been linked to euro for about two decades. The 8 West African countries namely- Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau currently use CFA France as their currency. All these countries, except Guinea-Bissau, are former French colonies.

Question 2:

Which of the following was the old name of USMCA?

Options:

- A. TPP
- B. RCEP
- C. NAFTA
- D. APEC

Answer: C

Explanation:



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The House of Representatives has passed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement — the replacement for NAFTA, or the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. The new deal includes stronger labor and environmental provisions. American labor groups have backed the new trade deal.

About United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA):

It's basically NAFTA 2.0, with major changes on cars and new policies on labor and environmental standards, intellectual property protections, and some digital trade provisions. The changes include:

Country of origin rules: Automobiles must have 75% of their components manufactured in Mexico, the US, or Canada to qualify for zero tariffs (up from 62.5 percent under NAFTA).

Labor provisions: 40 to 45 percent of automobile parts have to be made by workers who earn at least \$16 an hour by 2023. Mexico has also agreed to pass laws giving workers the right to union representation, extend labor protections to migrant workers, and protect women from discrimination. The countries can also sanction one another for labor violations.

US farmers get more access to the Canadian dairy market: The US got Canada to open up its dairy market to US farmers, which was a big issue for Trump.

What is NAFTA?

NAFTA is the initialism for the North American Free Trade Agreement, an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States that reduced or eliminated trade barriers in North America. (Since the U.S. and Canada already had a free trade agreement (signed in 1988), NAFTA merely brought Mexico into the trade bloc.)

Negotiations for the trade agreement began in 1990 under the administration of George H.W. Bush and were finalized under Bill Clinton's presidency in 1993. The agreement went into effect on January 1, 1994.

Question 3:

Which of the following is a ground for the removal of the US President?

Options:

- A. treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours
- B. lying to an oath
- C. proven corruption
- D. incapacity to hold the office

Answer: A

Explanation:

Donald Trump has become the third President to be impeached by the US House. He was accused of enlisting foreign government to investigate political rival before 2020 election. So far only two American presidents have been impeached. In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached on charges of sexual relationship with his intern. However, the senate acquitted him. Before him, in 1868, President Andrew Johnson was impeached. He was acquitted by one vote in the Senate. In 1974, President Nixon resigned over water gate corruption charges. The judiciary committee approved the articles of impeachment before the house could even pass them.

What is Impeachment?

Impeachment is a provision that allows Congress to remove the President of the United States.

Under the US Constitution:

The House of Representatives (Lower House) has the "the sole power of impeachment" while the Senate (Upper House) has "the sole power to try all impeachments".



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The Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court has the duty of presiding over impeachment trials in the Senate.

Grounds for impeachment:

The President can be removed from office for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors”. Essentially, it means an abuse of power by a high-level public official. This does not necessarily have to be a violation of an ordinary criminal statute. Historically, in the US, it has encompassed corruption and other abuses, including trying to obstruct judicial proceedings.

Question 4:

The phrase ‘Al Nakba’ is related to which of the following nations?

Options:

- A. Qatar
- B. Palestine
- C. Yemen
- D. Syria

Answer: B

Explanation:

Britain took control of the area known as Palestine after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire, was defeated in WW1. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority. Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a “national home” in Palestine for Jewish people. For Jews, it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move. Between the 1920s and 40s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe and seeking a homeland after the Holocaust of WWII. Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew.

The creation of Israel and the ‘Catastrophe’

In 1948, unable to solve the problem, British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel. Many Palestinians objected and a war followed. Troops from neighboring Arab countries invaded. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what they call Al Nakba, or the “Catastrophe”. By the time the fighting ended in a ceasefire the following year, Israel controlled most of the territory. Jordan occupied land which became known as the West Bank, and Egypt occupied Gaza. Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East. Because there was never a peace agreement – each side blamed the other – there were more wars and fighting in the decades which followed.

Question 5:

The ‘Uighurs’, recently in the news, belong to which of the following nations?

Options:



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- A. Myanmar
- B. Bhutan
- C. China
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: C

Explanation:

On December 3rd, the US House of Representatives passed by a 407-1 vote a Bill –The Uighur Human Rights Policy Act 2019 – that seeks to impose sanctions on senior Chinese officials for their involvement in the detention of Muslims. The bill also calls for the United States Secretary of Commerce to consider prohibiting the sale of US-made goods or services to any state agent in Xinjiang. The Uyghurs are a Turkic ethnic group who live in East and Central Asia. They live primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, where they are one of 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities. Uyghurs primarily practice Islam. China has detained at least a million Uighurs and other Muslims, including ethnic Kazakhs and Uzbeks, in “re-education camps” in the country’s northwestern Xinjiang province. The crackdown against the Muslims in the region — who are ethnically and culturally closer to central Asia than to the mainland Han Chinese — intensified after riots broke out in the regional capital Urumqi in 2009, in which over 200 people were killed.

History

Question 1. Who among the following was not a member of the Cabinet Mission?

- a. Penthick Lawrence.
- b. Stafford Cripps.
- c. A. V. Alexander.
- d. William Ward.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Mission Plan was a statement made by the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, on May 16, 1946, that contained proposals regarding the constitutional future of India in the wake of Indian political parties and representatives not coming to an agreement.
- The members of the Cabinet Mission were: Lord Penthick-Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, and A.V Alexander, First Lord of Admiralty.
- In September 1945, the new elected Labour government in Britain expressed its intention of creating a [Constituent Assembly](#) for India that would frame India’s [Constitution](#); the Cabinet Mission was sent to India in March 1946 to make this happen.
- The *Mission* had to deal with a major obstacle: the two main political parties – the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League – had fundamental differences over India’s future. While the Muslim League wanted the Muslim majority provinces of India to constitute a separate sovereign state of Pakistan, the Congress wanted a united India.
- The *Mission*, at the Shimla Conference, attempted to facilitate an agreement between the Muslim League and the Congress. When this failed, the *Mission* came out with its own proposals known as the Cabinet Mission Plan.

Question 2. Dadabhai Naoroji presented his ‘Drain of Wealth’ theory in which book?



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- Economic Problems in India.
- Economic Essays.
- The European And Asiatic Races
- Poverty and Unbritish Rule in India.

Ans. d.

Explanation: Dadabhai Naoroji's concept of wealth drain from India during British rule got huge attention. He mentioned the same concept in his book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*.

Question 3 . All India States Peoples' Conference was founded in December 1927 to coordinate political activities in different princely states. The Congress leader who became President of the All India States' Peoples' Conference in 1939 was-

- Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel.
- Jawahar lal Nehru.
- Mahatma Gandhi.
- Balwant Rai Mehta.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- The All India States Peoples' Conference (AISPC) was a conglomeration of political movements in the [princely states](#) of the [British Raj](#), which were variously called *Praja Mandals* or *Lok Parishads*.
- The first session of the organisation was held in [Bombay](#) in December 1927.
- The Conference looked to the [Indian National Congress](#) for support, but Congress was reluctant to provide it until 1939, when [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) became its president, serving in this position till 1946. After the Indian Independence, however, the Congress distanced itself from the movement, allying itself with the princely rulers via its national government's accession relationships.
- The States Peoples' Conference dissolved itself on 25 April 1948 and all its constituent units merged into the Congress, with one exception, viz., the [Jammu & Kashmir National Conference](#). This body, under the leadership of [Sheikh Abdullah](#) remained independent, while one section of it merged with the Congress in 1965.

Question 4. Who among the following was not the President of Indian National Congress?

- Sarojini Naidu.
- Aruna Asaf Ali.
- Anie Besant.
- N. Sengupta.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- In 1925 Sarojini Naidu was the president of the INC.
- In 1917 Anie Besant was the President of INC.
- Nelie Sengupta was elected president of the [Indian National Congress](#) at its 47th annual session at [Calcutta](#) in 1933.



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- Aruna Asaf Ali was an Indian educator, political activist, and publisher. An active participant in the Indian independence movement, she is widely remembered for hoisting the Indian National flag at the Gowalia Tank maidan, Bombay during a Quit India Movement in 1942.

Question 5. The Britishers were forced to leave India in 1947 because-

- It was no longer economically viable to rule in India.
- They failed to control communal riots.
- The Labour government had an anti-colonial attitude.
- Britain was weakened by the World War II.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- Hitler destroyed the economies of Britain and France to such an extent that they were no longer able to financially maintain their military forces, and were hence incapable of containing the burgeoning freedom movements in their colonies.
- It is worth noting that Britain was in such bad shape that it received about one-fourth of the total aid given under the Marshall Plan.
- Regardless of Gandhi or any other charismatic leader, Britain would have left India in 1947 purely for financial reasons, due to its wholly collapsed economy.
- After WWII, Britain left not only India but nearly all its other holdings, including Jordan in 1946, Palestine in 1947, Sri Lanka in 1948, Myanmar in 1948, Egypt in 1952 and Malaysia in 1957.