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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about “The Tech for Tribal” project:

1. It is a project to train tribal entrepreneurs at 16 premier IITs & IIMs of the country.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

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:

“The Tech for Tribals”, a project to train tribal entrepreneurs at 16 premier IITs & IIMs of the country, was launched on line on 19 March 2020. This scheme will link almost 3.5 lakh tribal entrepreneurs living in villages to the premier institutions of the world.

TRIFED, an organisation under the M/o Tribal Affairs, is implementing the project.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the National Supercomputing Mission”:

1. The target of the mission is to establish a network of supercomputers ranging from a few Teraflops (TF) to Hundreds of Teraflops (TF) and three systems with greater than or equal to 3 Peta Flops (PF) Institutions of National importance across the country by 2024.



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2. The mission is being implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

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 target of the mission was set to establish a network of supercomputers ranging from a few Teraflops (TF) to Hundreds of Teraflops (TF) and three systems with greater than or equal to 3 Peta Flops (PF) in academic and research institutions of National importance across the country by 2022.

The National Supercomputing Mission is steered jointly by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Question 3:

Which of the following statements are correct about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PVTGs)?

1. The highest number of PVTGs is found in Odisha.
2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)".
3. They are spread over 20 states.

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: A

Explanation:

PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. 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).

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" .

Question 4:

NASA's Dragonfly mission will search for life on which planet's moon?

Options:

- A. Mars
- B. Jupiter
- C. Venus
- D. Saturn

Answer: D

Explanation:

NASA plans to launch an unmanned nuclear-powered drone, Dragonfly as early as 2026 to search for life on Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

Dragonfly aims to search for signs of microbial alien life on Saturn's moon Titan, while navigating its earth-like gravity and aerodynamics in the process.



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Dragonfly mission is part of NASA's New Frontiers program, which includes a series of space exploration missions, which are being conducted with the purpose of researching several of the Solar System bodies, including the dwarf planet Pluto.

Question 5:

With reference to Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators, consider the following statements:

1. The coalition was formed to follow up on the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services(IPBES) assessment on Pollinators and Food Production.
2. India is a member of the coalition.

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:

The Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators was formed to follow up on the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services(IPBES) assessment on Pollinators and Food Production.

Recently, Nigeria has become the fourth African country to join the Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators. Ethiopia was the first African nation to be part of this global coalition in 2017.

India is not a member of the coalition.



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Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Kyasanur Forest disease Virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae
2. . It was first identified in 1957 in a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka.
3. There is no specific treatment for KFD although a vaccine is available.
4. KFD is endemic to the Indian state of Tamil nadu

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

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

ANSWER-C

Kyasanur Forest disease (KFD) is caused by Kyasanur Forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae. KFDV was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka (formerly Mysore) State, India. Since then, between 400-500 human cases per year have been reported. Hard ticks (*Hemaphysalis spinigera*) are the reservoir of KFD virus and once infected, remain so for life. Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick. KFDV can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates. Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) or monkey fever is a unique public health problem along the belts of Western Ghats of India. The disease is caused by KFD virus (KFDV) which is an arbovirus, family Flaviviridae. Humans are infected by the bite of tick and present with fever, sometimes haemorrhagic and/or neurological features. Majority of patients (80%) will recover without any consequences. However, about 20 per cent of patients manifest with biphasic presentation of symptoms, and of them, a few will develop severe haemorrhagic or neurological symptoms. The disease was limited to the Western Ghats of Karnataka State of India for about seven decades, however, since the last five years cases



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have been reported from adjacent States of Karnataka along the course of Western Ghats. The burden of the disease is increasing with the years. Detailed clinical and epidemiological aspects of KFD need to be explored for better understanding of the disease. This review provides information in detail on the clinical, epidemiological, advanced laboratory diagnosis and prevention aspects of KFD.

2. Which statement is not true about National Health Profile (NHP)

1. The NHP is prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)
2. It was first published in 2008
3. Dengue and Chikungunya are a great cause of concern to public health.
4. The NHP highlights major indicators as follows The Socio-Economic Indicators- Education, Employment, Housing, Amenities, sanitation and drinking water.

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

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

ANSWER-C

The Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) has been releasing its annual publication "National Health Profile (NHP)" on a regular basis since 2005. It involves prolonged, systematic and genuine efforts to collect an enormous amount of national data from the Directorates of Health & Family Welfare of all the 36 States/UTs, Central Government Organizations, National Health Programmes and various other concerned national and international agencies in India. This publication of vital national significance brings out very substantial Health Information under six major indicators viz. Demographic, Socio-Economic, Health Status, Health Finance, Health Infrastructure and Human Resources for the specified calendar year and much more relevant information required for an efficient public health system in our country. The sources as well as shortcomings of the data are also indicated. The 14th edition of NHP includes updated information from concerned State/UTs, Central Government Ministries and other organizations/agencies. It is expected that this national reference document shall be of immense support to all concerned government departments & institutions, public sector enterprises, non-government organizations,



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policy makers, planners, administrators, managers, researchers and academicians for a strong and efficient health system in India.

3. Consider the following statement which is true about polio.

1. Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children below age of 5
2. It mainly spreads through the faecal-oral route (e.g. contaminated water or food).
3. It also had led to establishment of Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1990

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-C

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis (can't move parts of the body). Polio is an infectious disease that is caused by viruses that may result in a wide range of symptoms in patients. Other terms for polio include poliomyelitis and infantile paralysis. Symptoms can range from a non-paralytic flu-like infection to total paralysis that can occur within a few hours.

The history of polio dates back about 6,000 years. Egyptian mummies have been found with withered and malformed limbs that likely occurred because of polio infection. In 1789, the first description of polio was recorded, and in 1834, the first documented epidemic occurred on the island of St. Helena. In 1855, Dr. Guillaume Benjamin Amand Duchenne showed polio involved the anterior horn cells (nerve cells) of the spinal cord. Landsteiner and Popper discovered the virus in 1908. The Iron lung was developed in the late 1920s to help some polio survivors with polio breathe. One of the most famous people who had polio was U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945). The polio virus was first cultivated in tissue culture (1949), and in 1951, the three types of poliovirus were isolated and identified. During the mid-1950's (1954), the first large-scale trial of the vaccine developed by Dr.



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Jonas Salk (dead virus vaccine) was administered by injection, and in 1958, Dr. Albert Sabin's vaccine (live attenuated virus) was administered as an oral vaccine. In 2000, the U.S. switched to using inactivated polio vaccine by injection. Other countries still may use the oral poliovirus vaccine. Because polio viruses survive only in humans and are transmitted only by human contact, the World Health Organization (WHO) is trying to eradicate polio worldwide. This attempt has been relatively successful with a 99% decrease in polio infections worldwide. In 2014, WHO announced that Southeast Asia was polio-free. However, some countries in Africa and the Middle East still have new infections caused by polio because of areas that cannot be reached by vaccine workers. Unfortunately, when there is war in these regions, polio makes a comeback because vaccine efforts are interrupted. The WHO still believes that polio eradication, like smallpox, may happen in the near future.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is an initiative created in 1988, just after the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate the disease poliomyelitis by the year 2000. It was described by the World Health Organization as the largest public health initiative in history.

Polio is spread when the stool of an infected person is introduced into the mouth of another person through contaminated water or food (fecal-oral transmission). Oral-oral transmission by way of an infected person's saliva may account for some cases.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Disease	Pathogen
1. Tuberculosis -	Bacteria
2. Malaria -	Protozoa
3. Diphtheria -	Virus

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER –B



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Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB). Tuberculosis generally affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body. Most infections do not have symptoms; in which case it is known as latent tuberculosis. The symptoms of active TB are a chronic cough with blood-containing sputum, fever, night sweats, and weight loss.

Plasmodium, a tiny protozoan is responsible for malaria. Different species of Plasmodium (*P. vivax*, *P. malaria* and *P. falciparum*) are responsible for different types of malaria. Of these, malignant malaria caused by *Plasmodium falciparum* is the most serious one and can even be fatal.

Diphtheria is an infectious disease caused by bacterial microorganisms known as *Corynebacterium diphtheria*.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Vitamin	Deficiency leads to
1. Vitamin A :	Dry and scaly skin
2. Vitamin B1 :	Attention deficit
3. Vitamin C :	Pain in joints and muscles

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER-D

Vitamins are substances that your body needs to grow and develop normally. There are 13 vitamins your body needs. They are Vitamin A, B vitamins (thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, biotin, vitamin B-6, vitamin B-12 and folate)

Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E and Vitamin K.

You can usually get all your vitamins from the foods you eat. Your body can also make vitamins D and K. People who eat a vegetarian diet may need to take a vitamin B12 supplement. Each vitamin has specific jobs. If you have low levels of certain vitamins, you may get health problems. For example, if you don't get enough



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vitamin C, you could become anemic. Some vitamins may help prevent medical problems. Vitamin A prevents night blindness. The best way to get enough vitamins is to eat a balanced diet with a variety of foods. In some cases, you may need to take vitamin supplements. It's a good idea to ask your health care provider first. High doses of some vitamins can cause problems.

Vitamins and minerals are often called micronutrients because your body needs only tiny amounts of them. Yet failing to get even those small quantities virtually guarantees disease. Here are a few examples of diseases that can result from vitamin deficiencies:

Scurvy. Old-time sailors learned that living for months without fresh fruits or vegetables—the main sources of vitamin C—cause the bleeding gums and listlessness of scurvy.

Blindness. In some developing countries, people still become blind from vitamin A deficiency.

Rickets. A deficiency in vitamin D can cause rickets, a condition marked by soft, weak bones that can lead to skeletal deformities such as bowed legs. Partly to combat rickets, the U.S. has fortified milk with vitamin D since the 1930s.

Just as a lack of key micronutrients can cause substantial harm to your body, getting sufficient quantities can provide a substantial benefit. Some examples of these benefits:

Strong bones. A combination of calcium, vitamin D, vitamin K, magnesium, and phosphorus protects your bones against fractures.

Prevents birth defects. Taking folic acid supplements early in pregnancy helps prevent brain and spinal birth defects in offspring.

Healthy teeth. The mineral fluoride not only helps bone formation but also keeps dental cavities from starting or worsening.

Economy

Question 1.

Which among the following kinds of assistance is/are extended by the Development Banks?

1. Extend Long term loans to Companies.
2. Buying the Shares of the companies to inject capital
3. Extend managerial assistance for the execution of projects.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 and 2 only



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

Answer D:

Explanation:

DEVELOPMENT BANKS, as the name suggests, these banks are specialized financial institutions that are set up so as to promote the socio-economic development in a country. These Banks provide long term credit at concessional rates to certain critical sectors such as Agricultural, Infrastructure, Industries etc.

- Most of the advanced economies such as USA, UK, Japan etc had set up development banks in the past which enabled them to attain higher growth momentum. On similar lines, China has also set up development banks in the field of agriculture and Trade so as to promote growth and development.
- Some of the development Banks in India include NABARD (Agriculture and Rural Development), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Industrial Development), SIDBI and MUDRA (MSME Development), EXIM Bank (Trade Development), National Housing Bank (Housing Infrastructure).

Question 2.

Consider the following statements related to Shares with Differential voting rights (DVRs):

1. The Shares with differential voting rights may either have enhanced or reduced voting rights.
2. Presently, there is no restriction on the Indian Companies for the issuance of shares with differential voting rights.

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:

DVR stands for differential voting rights which means the investor holding DVR shares has different voting rights than the investor holding the normal shares of the company.

DVR stands for differential voting rights which means the investor holding DVR shares has different voting rights than the investor holding the normal shares of the company.

Shares can have higher or lower voting rights as compared to the normal equity shares. However, Indian regulations don't permit higher voting rights shares. So Indian DVRs provide lower voting rights only.

DVR shares are listed on the stock exchanges like normal shares and are traded in the same manner as ordinary equity shares, but they mostly trade at a discount to the ordinary shares due to less voting rights.

The DVR shareholders are entitled to an additional dividend that is being declared for the shareholders to compensate for their less voting rights.



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Question 3.

Consider the following statements related to Price Stabilization Fund:

1. Presently, it is used only for the market intervention of Pulses and does not include vegetables.
2. This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer B:

Explanation:

In order to control the prices of onion government has created this fund. This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Question 4.

What does the recently launched KABIL deals with?

- A. Skill Building among the Minorities
- B. Improvement of higher Education
- C. Exploration of Strategic and Critical Minerals.
- D. Promotion of Women based Self-Help Groups

Answer C:

Explanation:

Union Ministry of Mines has set up joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market. This new company is mandated to ensure mineral security of the country and help in realizing the overall objective of import substitution.

Question 5.

Which among the following factors may possibly lead to depreciation in the value of Rupee?

1. Increase in Exports
2. Outflow of FPIs
3. Decrease in remittances

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer C:

Explanation:

Having seen the sluggish global economic conditions and their consequent impact on Indian economy foreign portfolio investors taking away their money from Indian capital market that led to greater outflow of foreign currency coupled with lesser remittances finally turned in to depreciation of the value of Rupee.

Polity

Question 1:



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The Satluj – Yamuna canal, recently in the news, was a result of a tripartite agreement involving Punjab, Haryana and _____.

Options:

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Union Government
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: C

Explanation:

Punjab has also demanded that suitable amendments be made to the proposed Inter State River Water Disputes Act to set up a new tribunal, to ensure that Punjab gets adequate water “in a just and equitable manner in keeping with its total demand and securing livelihood of the future generations.” Meanwhile, Haryana has said that the Supreme Court decision on the Sutlej Yamuna link (SYL) canal issue will come soon because in the previous execution order, it was stated that the issue should be resolved amicably.

What is the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal, and the controversy over it?

- The creation of Haryana from the old (undivided) Punjab in 1966 threw up the problem of giving Haryana its share of river waters.
- Punjab was opposed to sharing waters of the Ravi and Beas with Haryana, citing riparian principles, and arguing that it had no water to spare.
- However, Centre, in 1976, issued a notification allocating to Haryana 3.5 million acre feet (MAF) out of undivided Punjab's 7.2 MAF.
- The Eradi Tribunal headed by Supreme Court Judge V Balakrishna Eradi was set up to reassess availability and sharing of water. The Tribunal, in 1987, recommended an increase in the shares of Punjab and Haryana to 5 MAF and 3.83 MAF, respectively.

The canal:

- To enable Haryana to use its share of the waters of the Sutlej and its tributary Beas, a canal linking the Sutlej with the Yamuna, cutting across the state, was planned.
- A tripartite agreement was also negotiated between Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan in this regard.
- The Satluj Yamuna Link Canal is a proposed 214-kilometer long canal to connect the Sutlej and Yamuna rivers. However, the proposal met obstacles and was referred to the Supreme Court. It defines river water sharing between Punjab and Haryana.

Question 2:

'Shamlat land', recently in the news, refers to

Options:

- A. Land without any owner
- B. Land owned by the village panchayat
- C. Land allotted for graveyard
- D. Land under ownership dispute

Answer: B



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Explanation:

Punjab state Cabinet recently approved an amendment to the Village Common Land (Regulation) Rules, 1964, allowing panchayats to sell shamlat land to industrial houses, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and companies for setting up micro, small and medium industrial units. The underlying objective is to facilitate the “gram panchayats” to promote development of villages by unlocking the value of such land and transfer it for industrial projects to the Industry department and the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC).

What is shamlat land?

Three categories of common land in Punjab villages are:

- ‘Shamlat’ land is owned by the village panchayat.
- ‘Jumla mushtraka malkan’ is land in a common pool made with villagers’ personal contributions, and is managed by the panchayat.
- ‘Gau charan’, too belongs to the panchayat, and is for cattle grazing.
- Shamlat land is mainly used for cultivation, and is allotted for this through an open auction that is conducted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Department every year.

What's the issue now?

Various organisations in Punjab have been protesting against this revised land policy relating to ‘shamlat’ land. One-third of Punjab’s shamlat lands are reserved for Dalits. Around 25,000 to 26,000 families in the state, mostly Dalits, depend on this land for their livelihood. The recent government move has sparked fears of unemployment.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements with regards to Enemy property in India.

1. These are properties that were left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China.
2. These “enemy properties” were vested by the central government in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.
3. Of the total properties left behind by those who took Pakistani citizenship, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh, the highest in the country.
4. The highest number of properties left by Chinese nationals is in Meghalaya (57).

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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A Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah will monitor the disposal of over 9,400 enemy properties, which the government estimates is worth about Rs 1 lakh crore. Two committees headed by senior officials will be set up for the disposal of immovable enemy properties vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India under The Enemy Property Act.

What are enemy properties?

Properties that were left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China. There are 9,280 such properties left behind by Pakistani nationals and 126 by Chinese nationals. Of the total properties left behind by those who took Pakistani citizenship, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh, the highest in the country. West Bengal has 2,735 such estates and Delhi 487. The highest number of properties left by Chinese nationals is in Meghalaya (57). West Bengal has 29 such properties and Assam seven. The estimated value of all enemy properties is approximately Rs 1 lakh crore.

Who oversees these properties?

- Under the Defence of India Rules framed under The Defence of India Act, 1962, the Government of India took over the properties and companies of those who took Pakistani nationality.
- These “enemy properties” were vested by the central government in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India. The same was done for property left behind by those who went to China after the 1962 Sino-Indian war.
- The Tashkent Declaration of January 10, 1966 included a clause that said India and Pakistan would discuss the return of the property and assets taken over by either side in connection with the conflict.
- However, the Government of Pakistan disposed of all such properties in their country in the year 1971 itself.

Question 4:

The web portal GATI has been recently launched by

Options:

- A. Union HRD Ministry
- B. ISRO
- C. IRCTC
- D. Union Ministry of Road Transportation & Highways

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Launched by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- Created by NHAI.
- The portal 'GATI' can be accessed from NHAI's website, and contractors and concessionaires can raise any project-related issues on the platform.
- The issues raised in the GATI will be daily monitored by a team of officers in NHAI and will be constantly reviewed by the senior officers of NHAI and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Question 5:



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The landmark Supreme Court judgment in the Kihoto Hollohan case is related to which of the following issues?

Options:

- A. Disqualification of legislators convicted of crimes
- B. Anti-Defection law
- C. Rights of transgender
- D. Euthanasia

Answer: B

Explanation:

In an important order aimed at rearming the anti-defection law, the Supreme Court set three months as the outer limit for the Speaker to conclude disqualification proceedings against defectors. The apex court also wanted Parliament to revisit the rationale behind giving exclusive powers to the Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions. After all, the Speaker also belongs to a political party and often gets caught in the power games.

Supreme Court's decision of Speaker's Authority:

- There are two significant aspects to the Supreme Court's latest decision on the Speaker as the adjudicating authority under the anti-defection law.
- The first is that Parliament should replace the Speaker with a "permanent tribunal" or external mechanism to render quick and impartial decisions on questions of defection.
- Few would disagree with the Court's view that initial fears and doubts about whether Speakers would be impartial had come true.
- The second is its extraordinary ruling that the reference by another Bench, in 2016, of a key question to a Constitution Bench was itself unnecessary.
- The question awaiting determination by a larger Bench is whether courts have the power to direct Speakers to decide petitions seeking disqualification within a fixed time frame.
- The question had arisen because several presiding officers have allowed defectors to bolster the strength of ruling parties and even be sworn in Ministers by merely refraining from adjudicating on complaints against them.
- Some States have seen en masse defections soon after elections.
- Secure in the belief that no court would question the delay in disposal of disqualification matters as long as the matter was pending before a Constitution Bench, Speakers have been wilfully failing to act as per law, thereby helping the ruling party, which invariably is the one that helped them get to the Chair.
- It is time that Parliament have a rethink on whether disqualification petitions ought to be entrusted to a Speaker as a quasi-judicial authority when such Speaker continues to belong to a particular political party either de jure or de facto.

Landmark judgment in Kihoto Hollohan (1992) which upheld the validity of the Constitution's Tenth Schedule:

- This verdict had also made the Speaker's order subject to judicial review on limited grounds.
- It made it clear that the court's jurisdiction would not come into play unless the Speaker passes an order, leaving no room for intervention prior to adjudication.
- Finding several pending complaints before Speakers, the Bench, in 2016, decided that it was time for an authoritative verdict on whether Speakers can be directed to dispose of defection questions within a time frame.



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International Relations

Question 1:

Which of the following nations has recently introduced new rules to deter pregnant women from travelling to it to give birth?

Options:

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. France
- D. Israel

Answer: B

Explanation:

The US Department of State has unveiled new rules to deter pregnant women from travelling to the US to give birth. The policy is intended as a crackdown on what is known as “birth tourism”. Currently, pregnant women can enter the US even up until birth, according to US Customs and Border Protection. But the prospective mother’s travel may be restricted if there is reason to believe she intends to remain in the US beyond the time allowed by her visa, or plans for US taxpayers to foot the bill for her childbirth.

Need for the new policy?

Nearly all children born in the US gets automatic citizenship – a law US President Donald Trump has criticised. His administration says the new travel policy is necessary to safeguard US national security and public health.

What is the new rule?

The new rule applies to visitors seeking B visas, which are issued to non-immigrants. Under the rule, pregnant women applying for US visitor visas may need to prove they have a specific reason for travel other than giving birth on US soil. It allows consular officials to deny a visa to any individual whose “primary purpose” in obtaining such documentation is to give birth there.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements regarding the ICJ’s recent ruling against Myanmar on the Rohingya crisis.

1. The ruling of the court is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed.
2. So far, only three cases of genocide worldwide have been recognised since World War II: Cambodia (the late 1970s), Rwanda (1994), and Srebrenica, Bosnia (1995).
3. Myanmar was represented by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Which of these statements is correct?



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Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has given its verdict on the Rohingya crisis. The ruling of the court is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed. However, no means are available to the court to enforce it.

What the ruling says?- provisional measures:

- The government of Myanmar should immediately take “all measures within its power” to prevent atrocities against members of the minority Rohingya Muslim community.
- This is to be done in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- Myanmar shall ensure that its military or any irregular armed units within its control, do not commit any of the acts described above, or conspire to commit, direct, attempt to commit, or be complicit in genocide.
- Myanmar shall take “effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts” of genocide.

How the case reached ICJ?

It was the Republic of the Gambia. It went to the ICJ in November 2019, accusing Myanmar of genocide, which is the most serious of all international crimes.

The Gambia was backed by the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Myanmar was represented by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

What Next?

So far, only three cases of genocide worldwide have been recognised since World War II: Cambodia (the late 1970s), Rwanda (1994), and Srebrenica, Bosnia (1995).

Proving genocide has been difficult because of the high bar set by its ‘intent requirement’ — that is showing the genocidal acts were carried out with the specific intent to eliminate a people on the basis of their ethnicity.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about Interpol and the notices issued by the Interpol.

1. Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
2. There are seven types of notices — Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice.
3. India joined the organisation in 1949.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Interpol has issued a Blue Corner notice to help locate fugitive self-styled godman Nithyananda, weeks after the Gujarat Police sought the agency's intervention for this. Nithyananda fled India last year amid allegations of rape and sexual abuse.

What is an Interpol notice?

- Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- There are seven types of notices — Red Notice, Yellow Notice, Blue Notice, Black Notice, Green Notice, Orange Notice, and Purple Notice.

What is Interpol?

- The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a 194-member intergovernmental organisation.
- Headquartered in Lyon, France.
- Formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956.
- Interpol's declared global policing goals include countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity.
- India joined the organisation in 1949.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements about United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

1. The UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is a subsidiary body of the U.N. General Assembly.
2. Established by the UNGA in 1966.
3. Mandate is "to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law" through conventions, model laws, and other instruments that address key areas of commerce, from dispute resolution to the procurement and sale of goods.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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An International Arbitration Tribunal has dismissed all claims brought against India in entirety. The arbitration arose out of the cancellation of Letters of Intent for the issuance of telecom licences to provide 2G services in five telecommunications circles by reason of India's essential security interests. The verdict was pronounced last year in July 2019 by the International Arbitration Tribunal constituted in accordance with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules, 1976.

About UNCITRAL:

- The UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is a subsidiary body of the U.N. General Assembly.
- It is responsible for helping to facilitate international trade and investment.
- Established by the UNGA in 1966.
- Mandate is "to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law" through conventions, model laws, and other instruments that address key areas of commerce, from dispute resolution to the procurement and sale of goods.
- Annual sessions held alternately in New York City and Vienna, where it is headquartered.
- The Tribunal constituted in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976 is seated at the Hague, Netherlands, and proceedings are administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Question 5:

Which of the following nations has recently been declared 'reciprocating territory' by India?

Options:

- USA
- Brazil
- UAE
- Saudi Arabia

Answer: D

Explanation:

Last week, the Ministry of Law and Justice issued an Extraordinary Gazette Notification, declaring the United Arab Emirates to be a "reciprocating territory" under Section 44A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. The notification also declared a list of courts in the UAE to be "superior Courts" under the same section.

Apart from UAE, the other countries declared to be "reciprocating territories" are: United Kingdom, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, New Zealand, the Cook Islands (including Niue) and the Trust Territories of Western Samoa, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Aden.

What is a 'reciprocating territory' and what are superior courts?

"Reciprocating territory" means any country or territory outside India which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be a reciprocating territory; and "superior Courts", with reference to any such territory, means such Courts as may be specified in the said notification." Essentially, orders passed by certain designated courts from a 'reciprocating territory' can be implemented in India, by filing a copy of the decree concerned in a District Court here. The courts so designated are called 'superior Courts'.

The scope of the Section is restricted to decrees for payment of money, not being sums payable "in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty".



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It also cannot be based on an arbitration award, even if such an award is enforceable as a decree or judgment.

History

Question 1. Which among the following was not the provision of **Cabinet Mission**?

- The British Indian Provinces and the territories should be divided into three groups- A, B and C.
- The three groups of Provinces should also possess their separate constitution.
- A Province should have the right to leave the Union in future if it so liked after elections under its new constitutions.
- The Cabinet Mission thus pushed the partition of India and accepted the idea of independent Pakistan.

Ans. D.

Explanation:

The Cabinet Mission announced its own recommendation on 16th May 1946.

➤ **The main provisions of the recommendation were:**

- (1) The whole of India including the Princely States should form a Federation.
- (2) The Central Government should be in charge of foreign affairs, defence and communication.
- (3) The provinces and the states should enjoy all other powers.
- (4) The British Indian Provinces and the territories should be divided into three groups, the first group should contain Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan. The second group should contain Bengal and Assam. The third group should contain the rest of the Provinces. These first two groups should contain the Muslim majority areas and the third group the Hindu areas.
- (5) A Constituent Assembly should be elected to frame a constitution for the Indian Union.
- (6) The three groups of Provinces should also possess their separate constitution.
- (7) A Province should have the right to leave the Union in future if it so liked after elections under its new constitutions.



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(8) There should be an Interim National Government with leaders of the Indian parties to take charge of the administration.

- ***The Cabinet Mission thus upheld the unity of India and rejected the idea of independent Pakistan.*** These provisions however provided much autonomy to the Muslim Majority Provinces, to run their own affairs. It was thus a compromise formula between Indian unity and the interests of Muslim majority areas.

Question 2. Who among the following appeared in the court at the historic Red Fort trials of INA prisoners?

1. Tej Bahadur Sapru.
2. Mohammad Ali Jinnah.
3. Jawahar Lal Nehru.
4. Aruna Asaf Ali.
5. Bhulabhai Desai.

Select the correct code:

- a. 1,3 and 5 only.
- b. 2,4 and 5 only.
- c. 1,2 ,3 and 4 only.
- d. All the above.

Ans. A.

Explanation:

- The defence of the INA prisoners was taken up by the Congress and Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, K.N. Katju, Nehru and Asaf Ali appeared in court at the historic Red Fort trials.



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- The INA members, Shahnawaz Khan, Prem Sahgal and Gurbaksh Dhillon. They were jointly charged with waging war against the nation (Section 121 of IPC) and were individually charged for murder and abetment to murder by the British govt.

Question 3. Who was the president of Indian National Congress during the time of India's Independence in 1947 ?

- a. Paatabhi Sitaramayya.
- b. Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- c. J B Kripalani.
- d. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

Jawahar Lal Nehru: One month after his election as the president in 1946, he was asked to head the Interim Government. After which the post of the party president and the head of the Interim government was split. Nehru resigned as the president of INC and headed the Government.

J.B .Kripalani : had served as the General Secretary of the INC for almost a decade. He had experience working in the field of education and was made the president to rebuild the INC.

He was elected as President of INC in Meerut in 1947.

Question.4. Consider the following?

1. Why am I an atheist : Bhagat Singh.
2. The Indian Musalmans: W. W. Hunter.
3. A Tryst with Destiny: J.L.Nehru.

Select the correct code:

- a. 1 only.



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- b. 1 and 2 only.
- c. 2 and 3 only.
- d. 1 and 3 only.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- Why I Am an Atheist a Book written by Bhagat Singh
- **The Indian Musalmans** by [W. W. Hunter](#).
- A Tryst With Destiny a Book written by Stanley Wolpert.

Question 5. Who became the first individual satyagrahi selected by Mahatma Gandhi in 1940 ?

- a. Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- b. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
- c. Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- d. Vinoba Bhave.

Ans. d.

Explanation :

- Mahatma Gandhi had selected Vinoba Bhave in October 1940 as first Satyagrahi.
- Jawahar Lal Nehru was the second individual Satyagrahi who was arrested on October 31, 1940 and then released in 1941.

Geography

1) Consider the following statements on **Samudrayaan Project** :-

- (i) It is related to deep ocean mining for rare minerals.
- (ii) Humans to be sent to deep ocean bed under this project.
- (iii) The submersible vehicle to be used in this will be developed by the help of Russia.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) i and ii
- (b) i and iii
- (c) ii and iii



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(d) i, ii and iii

Answer a

Explanation :-

Samudrayaan Project: India, after Chandrayaan project is planning to explore the deep sea region with the 'Samudrayaan' project to undertake deep ocean mining. The 'Samudrayaan' is a pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for deep ocean mining for rare minerals. The 'Samudrayaan' project proposes to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for ocean studies. The project is expected to become a reality by 2021-22. The project has been undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). NIOT Director MA Atmanand said that NIOT has similarly undertaken Samudrayaan as ISRO has envisioned carrying an astronaut to space under its 2022 'Gaganyaan' mission. Under the proposed 'Samudrayaan' project, three men will be sent into deep sea in a submersible vehicle to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out various deep underwater studies. The submersible vehicle, which will be indigenously developed, would be capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six-kilometer for 72 hours. The project will go deeper in phases with more trials and the ocean mining is expected to commence in 2022. The submarines deployed currently go only about 200 metres deep into the sea. The expenditure of the ambitious project is expected to be around Rs 200 crore. The significance of Samudrayaan project that if it is successful then India will join the league of developed nations in the exploration of minerals from oceans. Developed countries have already carried out such missions. India could be the first developing country to undertake such a project. The 'Samudrayaan' will be a part of the Rs 6000 crore 'Deep Ocean' mission that has received an approval.

2) Consider the following statements on Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) :-

- (i) The commission took over the works of the former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.
- (ii) KVIC and Goa government initiated spinning and weaving activities in Goa.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

KVIC : It refers to The Khadi and Village Industries Commission. It is a statutory body formed by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956. The commission took over the works of the former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The objectives of KVIC are providing employment, producing saleable articles and creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit. In India, the crafts sector sustains over 20 million practitioners. Handicrafts bring in good fortune with minimal investment and have good value in the international markets. KVIC and Goa govt join hands to generate employment opportunities



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in Goa. They inaugurated a series of initiatives. These initiatives are first of its kind in Goa because earlier there was no spinning and weaving activity there. Pramod Sawant, the Chief Minister of Goa, along with Vinay Kumar Saxena, Chairman, KVIC recently distributed electric potter wheels to 160 families and new models charkhas (spinning wheels) to 50 trained women. This will create direct employment to 700 people. KVIC is also establishing a Lijjat Papad unit in Goa, which will create 200 direct jobs to the local women.

The world's first fully-electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight from :-

- (a) London
- (b) Shanghai
- (c) New York
- (d) Vancouver

Answer d

Explanation :-

Electric Aircraft: It is an aircraft powered by electric motors. Electricity may be supplied by a variety of methods including batteries, ground power cables, solar cells, ultracapacitors, fuel cells and power beaming

The world's first fully-electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight. It took off from the Canadian city of Vancouver. It flying for 15 minutes. This 62-year-old six-passenger DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver seaplane was re-fitted with a fully electric 750 horsepower motor. It was piloted by Greg McDougall. He is the founder and chief executive of Harbor Air, a British Columbia-based charter airline that transport passengers between Vancouver. MagniX designed the motor and worked in partnership with Harbor Air which ferries thousands of people a year between Vancouver, Whistler ski resort and nearby islands.

3) Consider the following statements on **International Tea Day** :-

- (i) It is observed annually on December 15 since 2005.
- (ii) Recently United Nations has now declared May 21 as International Tea Day due to Indian efforts.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c



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Explanation :-

International Tea Day: It is observed annually on December 15. It has been celebrated since 2005 in tea producing countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda and Tanzania.

The United Nations has now declared May 21 as International Tea Day after Indian government moved a proposal at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea expanding the observance of International Tea Day through UN FAO. May has been selected because the season of quality tea production starts in May in most of the tea producing countries. The purpose of celebrating this day is to boost its production and consumption, to help in fighting hunger and poverty in rural areas and also improve the condition of the tea producers and tea workers. It seeks to encourage the status of tea workers, daily wages, social security, employment security, health and workers' rights.

4) Consider the following statements on UDAN :-

- (i) It means Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik.
- (ii) It started in 2015.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

UDAN: It is a Regional Connectivity Scheme. UDAN refers to Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik. It was launched in 2017. Under this scheme the airlines compete to win subsidies to operate flights that link small airports with bigger airports in the country. In its 4th phase the operation of the helicopter and seaplane would also be allowed. The 4th phase scheme will not only promotes short-haul routes but the government will develop airports and operationalize the routes that were auctioned during the previous phase of the RCS scheme.