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India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

Date: 20th Apr 2020

BASIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Which of these statement is /are correct about Laboratory for conservation of endangered species ?

1. It is a laboratory under the administrative control of Council for scientific and Industrial Reserch (CSIR) .

2. Its purpose is to conserve wild life through use of biotechnological interventions .

3. It has established cell bank and gene bank through cryopreservation of semen , egg and embryo of endangered species .

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

ANSWER—D—All the ststement are correct .

Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species is a facility of the CSIR's . It is located at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.

It studies genetic variation in the wild life species using modern technologies such as DNA fingerprinting . . It has established cell bank and gene bank through cryopreservation of semen , egg and embryo of endangered species .DNA banking of more than 250 species of mammals, birds and reptiles in India.

It is developing assisted reproductive technologies such Artificial insemination , Invitro fertilization , embyo transfer and cloning in the field of wild life . Through Assisted reproductive technology scientist at LaCones have already achived pregnancy in Blackbuck , Chital and Blue rock pigeon . It produced 'Spotty', a spotted deer fawn and "blacky" a black buck calf using artificial insemination.

2. Consider the following statement about Agni –V .

- 1. It is a surface-to-surface cruise missile .
- 2. It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.
- 3. It can carry both convetional and nuclear warhead .
- 4. Agni 5 can cover entire China ,West Asia and parts of Africa
- 5. Agni V is expected to enter the armed forces in 2020.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 , 2 , 3 and 5
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 4 and 5.

ANSWER—D—

DRDO has said that Agni-5 is an intermediate range ballistic missile with arrange of about 5500 km . But china and many other foreign countries say that Agni-5 has a range of 8000 km and hence it qualifies for range of ICBM . Chinese strategist say that India has showed a low range of this missile so that other countries are not alarmed .

Agni-5 carries warhead upto 1500 kg . The Agni-V is a three-stage solid fuelled missile with composite motor casing in the second and third stage. Agni can be launched using a special canister means that it could even be launched from the roadside.

3. Harpoon Missile which was currently in news is

- a) Anti-ballistic missile system



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- b) Anti-ship missile
- c) Anti-tank missile
- d) Anti-aircraft missile

Answer-B

The Trump Administration on Monday notified the Congress of its determination to sell Harpoon Block II air launched missiles and lightweight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India.

According to the Pentagon, the Harpoon missile system will be integrated into the P-8I aircraft to conduct anti-surface warfare missions in defense of critical sea lanes while enhancing inter-operability with the United States and other allied forces.

Harpoon Block II is an over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile manufactured by Boeing Defence, Space & Security. It is the world's superior anti-ship missile capable of performing land-strike and anti-ship missions.

India had purchased P-8 I Poseidon Maritime patrol aircraft from USA. P-8i can carry both anti ship and anti-submarine warfare .

4 . Mission Shakti project of DRDO was about :-

- a) Anti-ballistic missile system
- b) Light weight combat aircraft
- c) Anti-satellite Missile
- d) Nuclear submarine

Answer---C

Mission Shakti, made India the fourth nation—after the US, Russia and China—to achieve the capability of destroying an enemy satellite. The destroyed satellite had an altitude of 300 kilometres.

The significance of the test is that India has tested and successfully demonstrated its capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space based on complete indigenous technology.

The DRDO's Ballistic Missile Defence interceptor was used, which is part of the ongoing ballistic missile defence programme.

The test was done in the lower atmosphere to ensure that there is no space debris. Whatever debris that is generated will decay and fall back onto the earth within weeks.

The capability achieved through the Anti-Satellite missile test provides credible deterrence against threats to our growing space-based assets from long range missiles, and proliferation in the types and numbers of missiles.

India's space programme is a critical backbone of India's security, economic and social

infrastructure. The test was done to verify that India has the capability to safeguard our space

assets. It is the Government of India's responsibility to defend the country's interests in outer

space.



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5. Consider the following statement about Light Combat Aircraft Tejas

1. It was developed to replace the Mig-21 fleet of Indian Air force .
 2. It is powered by a single engine supplied by General Electrical of USA .
 3. Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has recently conducted flight for final operational clearance (FOC) standard (SP-21) variant of the fighter jet.
- which of the above statement are correct ?
- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1 , 2 and 3

ANSWER---D—All the three statement are correct .

Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for the purpose of managing the LCA programme. ADA has worked closely with DRDO to develop several system and subsystems of Tejas , It is powered by American engine from General electrical . It is a single engine aircraft . It will eventually replace the ageing Mig 21 aircraft of IAF. Continuous development of the Tejas aircraft is being done . Newer variants of the Tejas is being developed . It incorporates many advanced avionics and weapon system .

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Marakkar clan:

1. The leaders of the clan were naval chieftains of the Zamorin of Calicut.
2. They were mostly Hindus.

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer-A

Explanation- The leaders of the Marakkar clan were naval chieftains of the Zamorin of Calicut during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Marakkars fought against Portuguese invaders for nearly a century. They were of Arab origin and had migrated from Tunisia to Panthalayani near Koyilandy in present-day Kozhikode.

The Marakkars were mostly Muslims, but in some parts, they have been found to be Hindus as well.

Q2. Consider the following provisions about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

1. The upper limit for permitting abortions is increased from 20 weeks to 24 under special circumstances.
2. The central government will constitute a Medical Board which will diagnose foetal abnormalities.

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

- (a) 1 only



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- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer-A

Explanation-The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 amends the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 which provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners.

It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 20 weeks to 24 under special circumstances. The "special categories of women" include rape survivors, victims of incest, the differently abled and minors.

Under the Bill, every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board. These Medical Boards will consist of the following members: (i) a gynaecologist, (ii) a paediatrician, (iii) a radiologist or sonologist, and (iv) any other number of members, as may be notified by the state government. The medical Board will diagnose foetal abnormalities.

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Delimitation:

1. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
2. The Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
3. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be called in question before any court.

Which of the above statements is / are correct?

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

Answer-B

Explanation-Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.

Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.

Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.

The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the [Election Commission of India](#).

Composition: Retired Supreme Court judge, Chief Election Commissioner and Respective State Election Commissioners

The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

Q4. Consider the following statements about First Resilient Kerala Program:

1. It is a joint program of the Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Economic Forum.
2. The Program will focus on strengthening the State's institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups through an inclusive and participatory approach.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



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B

The Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank have signed a Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the First Resilient Kerala Program to enhance the State's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

The Program will focus on strengthening the State's institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups through an inclusive and participatory approach. The Program, which represents the First 'State Partnership' of the World Bank in India, is the First of two Development Policy Operations aiming to mainstream disaster and climate resilience into critical infrastructure and services.

Q5. Which of the following is the Bonn challenge?

- (a) A global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- (b) A global effort to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C
- (c) A global effort to cut down world carbon emissions by 40% by 2050
- (d) None of the above

A

The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

The 2020 target was launched at a high level event in Bonn in 2011 organised by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests of the 2014 UN Climate Summit.

ECONOMY

Q.1. Which among the following criteria is/are adopted by the 15th Finance Commission for the horizontal distribution of taxes among the states?

- 1. Population (1971 Census)
- 2. Income Distance
- 3. Population (2011 Census)
- 4. Tax Effort
- 5. Demographic performance

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans. (c)

Explanation;

Criteria for the horizontal distribution of taxes among the states is as follows,

	14 th Finance Commission	15 th Finance
Commission		
Income Distance	50	45
Population (1971 Census)	17.5	Not Considered
Population (2011 census)	10	15
Demographic Performance	Not Considered	12.5
Forest Cover	7.5	Not
Considered		
Forest and Ecology	Not Considered	10
Area	15	15



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Tax Effort	Not considered	2.5
Total	100	100

Q.2. Consider the following statements related to recent changes in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

1. The revised PMFBY puts a limit on contribution of both Centre and State to the insurance premium.
2. The revised PMFBY provides for the compulsory enrolment of both loanee and non-loanee farmers under the scheme.

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

Ans. (d)

Explanation;

The Union Cabinet has decided to put a limit on the premium to be paid by the centre. As per the revised guidelines, the Centre would contribute the premium amount provided the premium is up to 30% for unirrigated areas/crops and 25% for irrigated areas/crops. If the premium is above the threshold, then the centre would not provide the additional premium amount. So, in that case, the additional premium amount would be borne by the respective state government.

Earlier, the scheme was mandatory for the loanee farmers i.e. who avail institutional loans from the Banks, while non-loanee farmers had the option to either enrol or opt out of the scheme. The recent changes have made the enrolment under the scheme voluntary even for the loanee farmers.

Q.3. Which among the following organizations manages the "Produce Fund" for the promotion of Food Producer Organizations (FPOs) in India?

- (a) Small Farmers Agri-business consortium (SFAC)
(b) National Cooperative development Corporation (NCDC)
(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Development (NABARD)
(d) NITI Aayog

Ans.(c)

Explanation;

the Government of India has set up PRODUCE Fund (Producers' Organization Development and Upliftment Corpus) under the NABARD in 2014-15 for building of 2000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the country. The aim of the PRODUCE Fund is to promote new FPOs and

support their initial financial requirements, to make them credit worthy, commercially vibrant and sustainable business enterprise of farmers.

Q.4. Consider the following statements related to Long Term Repo Operations (LTROs) recently carried out by RBI:

1. The LTROs are similar to term repos but with a longer maturity period of 1 year and 3 years.
2. By carrying out LTROs, the RBI would inject liquidity into economy at a rate which would be higher than 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



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Ans. (a)

Explanation;

LTRO is a new policy tool used by the RBI to inject more liquidity into the Economy. It is considered to be similar to the term repos, but with a longer maturity period of 1 year and 3 years. Through the LTRO, the RBI seeks to inject long term liquidity into the economy at a lower interest rate. This is so because the interest rate on the LTRO is fixed at the Repo rate (which is considered to be much lower than the rate of interest on the 1 year or 3 year loans).

RBI has carried out the LTROs for the following purposes:

1. Reduce rate of Interest on the long term loans.
2. The reduction in the long term rate of interest would force the banks to reduce the rate of interest on short term loans. (The rate of interest on long term loans is usually higher than that on short term loans).
3. Incentivise the Banks to reduce their overall lending rates and improve the monetary policy transmission.

Q.5. What does the EASE Reforms Index deal with?

- (a) Improve Ease of Doing Business Index in India.
- (b) Improve the Governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- (c) Making it easier for the companies to obtain environmental clearances.
- (d) Improving the agricultural marketing Infrastructure.

Ans.(b)

Explanation;

EASE Index is a common reform agenda for PSBs aimed at institutionalizing clean and smart banking. It was launched in January 2018, and the subsequent edition of the program i.e. EASE 2.0 built on the foundation laid in EASE 1.0 and furthered the progress on reforms. EASE 3.0 sets the agenda and roadmap for financial year 2020-21 for the transformation of PSBs into digital and data-driven NextGen Banking of the Future. EASE 3.0 emphasizes on the use of digital, analytics & AI, FinTech partnerships across customer service, convenient banking, end-to-end digitalised processes for loan sourcing and processing, analytics-driven risk management as well as decision support systems for HR.

POLITY

1. With reference to positions offered to the judges after their retirement, consider the following statements.
 1. In 1952, Justice Fazl Ali was appointed the Governor of Orissa, shortly after retiring from the Supreme Court.
 2. Ranganath Mishra served as CJI 25 Sep 1990 to 24 Nov 1991. He was first Chairman of the NHRC in 1993 and a member of the Rajya Sabha on a Congress ticket from 1998 to 2004.
 3. In April 1967, Chief Justice Subba Rao resigned from the Supreme Court to contest elections for President.

Which of these statements is correct?

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 & 3 only
- c. 1 & 2 only



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- d. All of the above

Answer – D

Within five months of his retirement as Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the government. Former CJI had presided over politically sensitive cases (Assam NRC, Sabarimala, Ayodhya, Rafale, CBI) in which the government was a party.

Is this the first time that such post-retirement appointment is taking place?

- No, retired judges have been appointed to political office since independence.
 - In 1952, Justice Fazl Ali was appointed the Governor of Orissa, shortly after retiring from the Supreme Court.
 - In 1958, Chief Justice M C Chagla resigned from the Bombay High Court in order to become India's Ambassador to the US at Prime Minister Nehru's invitation.
 - In April 1967, Chief Justice Subba Rao resigned from the Supreme Court to contest elections for President.
 - Justice Baharul Islam served as Judge of Supreme Court from 4th Dec 1980 to 12th Jan 1983. He contested elections as a Congress party candidate and was elected to the Rajya Sabha from 15th June 1983 to 14th June 1989. He gave a Judgement in the case absolving the then Congress Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra in the urban cooperative bank scandal
 - Ranganath Mishra served as CJI 25 Sep 1990 to 24 Nov 1991. He was first Chairman of the NHRC in 1993 and a member of the Rajya Sabha on a Congress ticket from 1998 to 2004. He was the sole member of the Commission of Inquiry into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots which gave clean chit to Congress Party
2. The Supreme Court recently upheld the 'West Bengal Madrasah Service Commission Act, 2008', setting aside a Calcutta High Court verdict which had held the legislation was unconstitutional. This particular legislation concerns which of the following articles of the constitution?
- a. Article 27
 - b. Article 28
 - c. Article 29
 - d. Article 30

Answer – D

Supreme Court upheld the West Bengal Madrasah Service Commission Act, 2008. The court set aside a Calcutta High Court verdict which had held the legislation was unconstitutional. As per the provision of the act, the appointment of teachers in these theological institutions (Madrassas) shall now be made by a board nominated by the government. As per Section 10 of the act, all appointments of teachers to the religious schools are to be recommended by the commission and the management committee shall be bound by such recommendations. Section 11 says that anyone appointed in contravention of this Act shall not be considered a teacher and such an appointment shall be invalid.

As per the experts, the act violates Article 30 which stated that all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Additionally, the judgment by a three-judge bench in Chandana Das (2019) case gave the Sikh minority institutions of West Bengal the right to appoint teachers



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3. The Human Rights commissions in India were established under which of the following conventions?
- Paris Principles
 - Geneva Convention
 - Vienna Convention
 - Treaty of Locarno

Answer – A

The Madras High Court is to decide on whether the recommendations made by such panels are binding upon the state. A Brief Background. In 1993, the Indian Parliament enacted the Protection of Human Rights Act. The purpose of the Act was to establish an institutional framework that could effectively protect, promote and fulfil the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

Therefore, the Act created a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and also, Human Rights Commissions at the levels of the various States. These institutions can be considered as “fourth branch institutions” (similar to how other institutions like ECI, CAG, CIC which perform vital functions of Constitution). HRCs were established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October, 1991) and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December, 1993.

4. Consider the following statements about the anti-defection law in the country.
- The President decides on the question of disqualification of a member of parliament under this law.
 - The anti-defection law finds mention in the 10th schedule.
 - In the Kihoto Hollohan case, the SC declared that the decision to disqualify a MP can't be challenged in the court.

Which of these statements is/are true?

- 1 only
- 1 & 3 only
- 2 only
- All of the above

Answer – C

The presiding officer of the house decides on the question of disqualification of a member of parliament under this law. The anti-defection law finds mention in the 10th schedule. In the Kihoto Hollohan case, the SC declared that the decision to disqualify a MP can be challenged in the court.

In a first, the Supreme Court removed Manipur Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh, against whom disqualification petitions were pending before the Speaker since 2017. Further, the court restrained him “from entering the Legislative Assembly till further orders”.

Brief Background of the case

- The concerned person had become an MLA in 2017 on a Congress ticket before switching to the BJP to become Minister in Manipur State Government.
- A disqualification petition against the minister was pending before the Speaker since 2017 but the Speaker failed to take the decision within a reasonable time period.
- On 21st January 2020, a three-judge Supreme Court Bench had asked the Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly to decide the disqualification (under Tenth Schedule) petitions of the concerned MLA within four weeks.



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5. Which of the following safeguards are not available to people detained under Preventive detention?
- A person may be taken to preventive custody only for 3 months at the first instance.
 - The detainee is entitled to know the grounds of his detention.
 - The detaining authorities must give the detainee earliest opportunities for making representation against the detention.
 - None of the above

Answer – D

Public Safety Act and National Security Act were in news because of recent detentions that took place after abrogation of Article 370 and also due to NCR and Anti-CAA protests. Besides, recently former J&K CM Omar Abdulla was released after revocation of his detention. So it is important to understand the concept of Preventive detention and FRs as well.

Preventive Detention - It is the imprisonment of a person with the aim of preventing him from committing further offences or of maintaining public order.

Article 22 (3) - If a person is arrested or detained under preventive detention, then the protection against arrest and detention under Article 22 (1) and 22(2) shall not be available.

- A detainee under preventive detention can have no right of personal liberty guaranteed by Article 19 or Article 21.
- To prevent reckless use of Preventive Detention, certain safe guards are provided in the constitution:
 1. A person may be taken to preventive custody only for 3 months at the first instance.
 2. The detainee is entitled to know the grounds of his detention.
 3. The detaining authorities must give the detainee earliest opportunities for making representation against the detention.

6. In the context of the government putting a stay of two years on the MPLADS funds, consider the following statements.

1. **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) looks into its working.**
2. **The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.**
3. The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme.
4. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.

Which of these statements is correct?

- 1 only
- 1 & 3 only
- 2 & 3 only
- All of the above

Answer – D



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The suspension of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for two years - one of the many measures that the central government has taken in preparation for a fight against coronavirus and its adverse impact on the economy - has evoked sharp criticism from many quarters, especially from opposition's Members of Parliament (MP). The suspension of the MPLADS would help government save a total of around Rs 8,000 crore in two years. The government has allocated Rs 3,960 crore, or Rs 5 crore to each MP (in both houses of Parliament), for 2020-21.

MPLADS funds

- It is a scheme formulated by the Government of India that enables the members of parliaments (MP) to recommend developmental work in their constituencies.
- The emphasis is on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) looks into its working.
- The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.
- The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme.
- The MPLADS is fully funded by the Government of India.
- The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore

7. Who amongst the following is not a member of the PM CARES fund?
- a. Union Defence Minister
 - b. Union Home Minister
 - c. Union External Affairs Minister
 - d. Union Finance Minister

Answer – C

PM CARES Fund

- The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the fund.
- Other Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Under section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, every company having net worth of at least Rs 500 crore, turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or more, or a minimum net profit of Rs 5 crore during the immediate preceding financial year has to make CSR expenditure.
- The CSR initiatives of companies thrust on creating value in the lives of the communities around its areas of business and manufacturing operations. PM National Relief Funds (PMNRF)
- These are the other funds under the Prime Minister.
- He is the chairman of the fund.
- The PMNRF is used to support people affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- This includes acid attacks, accidents and riots.
- It is also allotted to people for kidney transplantation treatments, heat, surgeries, etc.



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8. Which of the following statements is/are not correct about Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020?
- The schemes provide a one-time waiver of additional filing fees for delayed filings by the companies or LLPs with the Registrar of Companies during the currency of the Schemes, i.e. during the period starting from 1st April, 2020 and ending on 30th September, 2020.
 - The Scheme also contains provision for giving immunity from penal proceedings, including against imposition of penalties for late submissions.
 - It also provides additional time for filing appeals before the concerned Regional Directors against imposition of penalties, if already imposed.
 - None of the above

Answer – D

Ministry of Corporate Affairs introduces the “Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020” and revised the “LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020” to provide relief to law abiding companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) in the wake of COVID 19.

What do these schemes entail?

- These schemes incentivise compliance and reduce compliance burden during the unprecedented public health situation caused by COVID-19.
- The schemes provide a one-time waiver of additional filing fees for delayed filings by the companies or LLPs with the Registrar of Companies during the currency of the Schemes, i.e. during the period starting from 1st April, 2020 and ending on 30th September, 2020.
- They also significantly reduce the related financial burden on them, especially for those with long standing defaults, thereby giving them an opportunity to make a “fresh start”.
- Both the Schemes also contain provision for giving immunity from penal proceedings, including against imposition of penalties for late submissions.
- They also provide additional time for filing appeals before the concerned Regional Directors against imposition of penalties, if already imposed.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

9. Which nation recently cancelled Exercise Red Flag, a flagship multilateral air exercise, scheduled from April 30, where was to be one of the participants?
- Russia
 - USA
 - Japan
 - Australia

Answer – B

The U.S. Air Force has cancelled Phase-I of its flagship multilateral air exercise, Red Flag, scheduled in Alaska from April 30. The Indian Air Force (IAF) was to take part in the exercise with its Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets. Exercise Red Flag is a two-week advanced aerial combat



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training exercise held several times a year by the United States Air Force. It aims to offer realistic air-combat training for military pilots and other flight crew members from the United States and allied countries. Only countries considered friendly towards the United States take part in Red Flag exercises.

10. The project 'SOLIDARITY', recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- WHO drug trial for Covid19
 - UN project to safeguard refugees from Covid19 pandemic
 - India – US partnership to fight against Covid19 by medicine and information exchange
 - China sending free of cost medical supplies to the African nations

Answer – A

World Health Organization (WHO) announced a large global trial, called SOLIDARITY, to find out whether any can treat infections with the new coronavirus for the dangerous respiratory disease. The study has been designed to generate the robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective. India has volunteered to participate in this trial. Many countries, including Argentina, Bahrain, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and Thailand, have already confirmed that they will join the solidarity trial. The Solidarity Trial will test four different drugs or combinations — remdesivir, a combination of two drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir, the two drugs plus interferon beta, and chloroquine — and will compare their effectiveness to what is called standard of care, the regular support hospitals treating COVID-19 patients use now.

WHO has also created a Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund, to help provide protective equipment for front-line health workers, equip diagnostic laboratories, improve surveillance and data collection and take other critical steps to scale up the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PT - HISTORY

1. Consider the following statements about **Non Cooperation Movement** :

- The Congress met in a special session in September, 1920 at Calcutta and agreed to start the NCM.
- The movement included both positive and negative programmes.
- The whole movement was supported by the capitalist class and zamindars.

Which one among the above is/are correct?

Select the correct code:

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

Ans. B.

(EXPLANATION)

The NCM had both positive and negative programmes such as



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- Boycott of government schools, colleges, institutions ,etc.
- Surrender of titles and resignation from local bodies.
- Establishment of national schools and colleges.
- Popularisation of swadeshis and khadi.
- Hindu- muslim unity.

Indian society such as peasants, workers, students and teachers, women, etc participated in the NCM. However, the big industrialists, capitalists and zamindars remained hostile.

- 2.** The Congress criticised the **Harcourt Butler Committee Report** due to –
- a. Establishment of an indirect government in the provincial council.
 - b. Scrapping dyarchy in the provinces.
 - c. The preservation of Princely states through British Paramountcy.
 - d. Separate electorates for Muslims in the Provincial election.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

Sir Harcourt Butler chaired a three-member committee appointed by his Majesty's Government in Britain in 1927 to inquire into the relationship between the Indian Princely States and the British Government of India.

The British group, consisting of **Sir Harcourt Butler, Prof. W.S. Holdsworth and S.C. Peel**, was called the Indian States Committee. They visited sixteen Princely States. They submitted their report in February 1929. The following recommendations were given by the Butler committee.

(i) Paramountcy must remain supreme and must fulfil its obligations, adopting and defining itself according to the shifting necessities of time amid progressive development of states.

(ii) The states were bound by treaties with the Crown and the states should not be handed over without the ruler's prior consent to an Indian Government in British India responsible to an Indian Legislature.

(iii) The Viceroy, not the Governor-General in council was to be the Crown agent in dealing states.

The report noted the apprehensions of the princes about a possible transfer of relationship control by an elected Indian legislature. The Indian princes were surprised at the concept of Paramountcy being left undefined. In opposition to the views of the rulers, the State People's Conference submitted a written statement to the Butler Committee declaring their objective to be representative and responsible government in the Indian states. All the left parties including the Congress also criticised the report in strongest terms.

- 3.** Which of the following national movements was supported by the Indian Capitalist class?
- a. Anti- Bengal Partition Movement.
 - b. Non-Cooperation Movement.
 - c. Civil Disobedience Movement.
 - d. Quit India Movement.

Ans. C..



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Explanation:

- The capitalist class emerged in the end of 19th century and played some roles in freedom movement in one way or other.
 - There were certain capitalists who joined Congress, went to jails and suffered hardships, for example JL Bajaj. There were many others who didn't join Congress but gave financial and other support, for example, GD Birla.
 - At the same time, there were a small number of capitalists who actively opposed the movement, or remained neutral. Though less or almost negligent number of capitalists participated in Swadeshi movement, home rule movement and all movements till 1920; yet after 1920, the number of capitalists participated in national movement started improving .
 - However, **the civil disobedience movement** was a watershed moment as it saw the greatest participation of capitalists. Most of them supported the national movement but were skeptical about unconstitutional means to carry it. So, they advocated negotiations and legal methods to pursue freedom struggle which led to passage of various acts.
- 4.** The first All India Congress Socialists Conference was convened in 1934 at Patna by:
- a. Jayaprakash Narayan.
 - b. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.
 - c. Achyuta Patwardhan
 - d. Acharya Narendra Dev.

Ans. A.

Explanation:

- Congress Socialist Party, or (CSP), was a left-wing group within the Congress. It was formed with Acharya Narendra Dev as President and Jay Prakash Narayan as General Secretary in 1934.
 - After his release from jail in 1934, **Jay Prakash Narayan** convened a meeting in Patna which founded the **Bihar Congress Socialist Party** with Narayan as general secretary and Acharya Narendra Deva as president.
 - On October 23-23, 1934, another conference was held in Bombay where they formed an all India level "Congress Socialist Party" with Narayan as general secretary and Masani as joint secretary and Acharya Narendra Deva as president.
 - The CSP was not separate from the Congress. Its constitution defined that the members were all required to be members of the Indian National Congress. Members of communal organizations or political organizations, whose goals were incompatible with the ones of CSP, were barred from CSP membership.
- 5.** Subhash Chandra Bose was re-elected President of the Congress at the Tripuri Session in 1939, by defeating:
- a. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.



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- b. Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- c. Pattabhi Sitarammaya.
- d. J. B. Kripalani.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- In March 1939, Congress met at annual session at Tripuri near Jabalpur.
- For the 1939 elections of the President of Congress, Subhash announced his candidature knowing that he would be opposed. By this time, Nehru was on a long holiday in Europe.
- When he returned in 1938, Gandhi suggested him to announce his name as a candidate. But he declined and suggested the name of Maulana Azad.
- But Maulana Azad withdrew his name and then new name came up was of **Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya**, an Andhra leader.
- But Subhash was not sure of his win. The result was declared on January 29, 1939 and Subhash secured 1580 Votes. Sitaramaya got 1377 votes, thus Subhash winning by a narrow but clear margin.

GEOGRAPHY

11) Consider the following statements in relation to Jalsathi programme :-

- (i) It is a flagship programme of government of India to provide water in drought prone areas.
- (ii) Union Ministry of Jalshakti is the implementing agency.
- (iii) Major focus will be on irrigation purposes.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) i and ii
- (b) i and iii
- (c) ii and iii
- (d) none

Answer d

Explanation :-

Odisha is an eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal. It is known for its tribal cultures and its many ancient Hindu temples. The capital, Bhubaneswar, is home to hundreds of temples, notably the intricately-carved Mukteshvara. The Lingaraj Temple complex, dating to the 11th century, is set around sacred Bindusagar Lake. The official language of the state is Odia.

The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Jalsathi' programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state. The Government seeking to boost the economic empowerment of women have included Woman volunteers called as- 'Jalasathis' for Mission Shakti for



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piped water supply for which water quality testing kits and POS (point of sale) machines was distributed to them. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) and women federations in Bhubaneswar (Odisha Capital) for implementation of 'Jalsathi' programme.

12) What is Paris blob :-

- (a) It is an organism discovered at Paris zoo.
- (b) It is an online portal for Paris news.
- (c) It is the trend analysis for high temperature of Paris.
- (d) It is the rhythm of Paris stock market.

Answer a

Explanation :-

A strange and mysterious new yellowish organism has been unveiled at Paris zoo. It has no mouth, no stomach and no eyes, but can somehow detect and digest food. This strange organism has been dubbed as "blob". The "blob" has almost 720 sexes, can move without legs or wings and heals itself in two minutes if it gets cut in half. As per the director of the Paris Museum of Natural History Bruno David, it is a living being which belongs to one of nature's mysteries. It is still a mystery whether the organism is an animal or a fungus as its behaviour is very strange. The blob was named after a 1958 science-fiction horror B-movie, starring a young Steve McQueen, in which an alien life form - The Blob - consumes everything in its path in a small Pennsylvania town.

13) Consider the following statements on Island Development Agency of India :-

- (i) It works under Ministry of Home Affairs having convener as CEO of NITI Aayog.
- (ii) It works to improve the IT and other infrastructure development on the selected islands.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

IDA: It stands for the Island Development Agency. It was constituted in 2017 under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs to look into the holistic development of islands. The chairman of IDA is Home Minister of India and CEO of NITI Aayog acts as its convener. The IDA members include secretary of



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Environment, Forests and climate change, Tourism, Tribal affairs, the Home Secretary, S and Cabinet secretary. NITI Aayog has been mandated with the task to steer the holistic development of the islands in sustainable manner. The Government of India (GoI), on 13th of January 2020 held the 6th Island Development Agency (IDA) meeting in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah. The Meeting of the Island Development Agency focused on Green Development in the Islands to reach a new Height. The progress made towards the Holistic development of islands programme was reviewed at the meeting. GoI, for the first time, carried out an initiative of sustainable development in the identified Islands within scientifically-assessed carrying capacity under the guidance of IDA. The scientific development plans include creating jobs through tourism promotion and increasing export of sea food and coconut based products that are prepared in the islands itself. The plan is to be implemented in four islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and five islands of Lakshadweep Islands. The second phase will cover 12 more islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and 5 Islands of Lakshadweep islands.

The decisions taken at the meeting were:-

To improve and implement those infrastructure projects that connects the islands through sea and air. Port Blair and another 7 islands in Andaman & Nicobar would get digitally connected through submarine optical fiber cable by June, 2020. Bids for already planned model tourism projects both on Land-based and Water Villas have been invited for private sector participation. To formulate separate policy for maintaining a clean, green and healthy environment in the islands, Information Technology based micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are to be set up under the Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands Industrial Development (LANIDS) Scheme.

14) Consider the following statements on NEAT AI (National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Artificial Intelligence (AI)) scheme :-

- (i) It was launched by Ministry of Information and Technology and Ministry of Education jointly.
- (ii) It shall be implemented by all central and state education boards.
- (iii) NIIT is selected for assistance.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) only iii
- (d) all are correct

Answer c

Explanation :-

NEAT AI scheme: It is a National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Artificial Intelligence (AI) scheme which was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), recently. The scheme was launched to customize learning process using Artificial Intelligence (AI). NEAT AI Scheme aims to recognize the development of emerging technologies in Adaptive Learning and bring them under a common platform so that learners can access it easily. NEAT program will be implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) has been selected as one of the EdTech companies for the NEAT initiative. NIIT was established



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with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society. AICTE: All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was founded in November 1945 as a national-level apex advisory body to conduct a survey on the facilities available for technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner. It is headquartered in New Delhi. As per the National Policy of Education (1986) defines AICTE as the Statutory authority for planning, formulation and maintenance of norms & standards, quality assurance through accreditation, funding in priority areas, monitoring, and evaluation, maintaining parity of certification & awards, and the management of technical education in the country.

15) Consider the following statements on Farmers Innovation Fund (FIF) :-

- (i) It is announced by ICAR.
- (ii) Its operation will start from fiscal year 2020-21.
- (iii) It will promote scientific farming.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) i and ii
- (b) i and iii
- (c) i, ii and iii
- (d) none

Answer c

Explanation :-

ICAR: It refers to Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It is responsible for co-coordinating agricultural education and research in India. The ICAR is responsible for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. It was founded on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in pursuance of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world and it has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is all set to start a Farmers Innovation Fund (FIF). It was announced by the Director General Trilochan Mohapatra at the 1st ever Farmers' Science Congress, a part of the ongoing 107th Indian Science Congress. ICAR will start operating the FIF in fiscal 2020-21.

The main aim of FIF is to scientifically validate, scale-up and propagate the innovations of progressive farmers. The scientific farming based activities will not only link farmers and farming with science but also encourage them to continue their innovations. As part of this system, an innovation centre will be established in New Delhi where the innovations will be scientifically validated and farmers will be allowed to pursue research work. At present, the innovations of farmers are being documented by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras.