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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the LESA (Lunar Evacuation System Assembly):

1. It is developed by the European Space Agency (ESA).
2. Its purpose is to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffers an injury on the lunar surface.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

LESA is developed by the European Space Agency (ESA).

LESA is a pyramid-like structure whose purpose is to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffer an injury on the lunar surface.

LESA can be operated by a single astronaut to rescue a fallen colleague. It enables an astronaut to lift their crewmate onto a mobile stretcher in less than 10 minutes, before carrying them to the safety of a nearby pressurised lander.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the Mission Innovation (MI):

1. It is a global initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. Mission Innovation has identified eight (8) Innovation Challenges which are global calls to action aimed at accelerating research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) in technology areas.



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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:

Mission Innovation (MI) is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate global clean energy innovation.

As part of the initiative, participating countries have committed to double their governments' clean energy research and development (R&D) investments over five years, while encouraging greater levels of private sector investment in transformative clean energy technologies.

Mission Innovation has identified eight (8) Innovation Challenges which are global calls to action aimed at accelerating research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) in technology areas.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the Code on Wages Bill, 2019:

1. The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be lower than the floor wage.
2. The Code will apply to all employees.
3. The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: B

Explanation:

The Code on Wages, 2019 replaces the following four laws: (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (ii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (iii) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and (iv) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

The Code will apply to all employees. The central government will make wage-related decisions for employment such as railways, mines, and oil fields, among others. State governments will make decisions for all other employment.

According to the Code, the central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account living standards of workers. The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage. The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages.

Question 4:

Tiangong-2, recently in news is associated with:

Options:

- A. Nasa's satellite to Mars
- B. Russia's space launch vehicle
- C. China's space station
- D. Japan's Moon Mission

Answer: C

Explanation:

Tiangong-2 is a space station launched by China. It is part of China's plan to establish a manned space station around 2022. It is 380 kilometres above Earth. There are two astronauts on board. Tiangong 2 will be used to test space technology and conduct medical and space experiments.

Question 5:



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With reference to the Green Climate Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It was set up by the 194 countries who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015 at COP 21- Paris, France.
2. The Fund is headquartered in Songdo, in the Republic of Korea.

Which of these statements is / are incorrect?

Options:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was set up by the 194 countries who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 (COP 16 at Cancun in Mexico), as part of the Convention's financial mechanism.

The aim of all GCF activities is to support developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

GCF is accountable to the United Nations and it is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Fund is headquartered in Songdo, in the Republic of Korea.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement about Nipah virus –

1. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus.
2. it is transmitted from animals to humans and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
3. Nipah virus infections were first identified in 1999 in india .

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

(a) Only (1) & (3)



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(b) Only 2, 3. & 4

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –c

Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers. Although Nipah virus has caused only a few known outbreaks in Asia, it infects a wide range of animals and causes severe disease and death in people, making it a public health concern. Nipah virus infections were first identified in 1999 in Malaysia. From then on infections have been detected quite frequently in Bangladesh.- There have been a few incidents of infection in India earlier, apart from the 2018 outbreak in Kerala. The 2018 outbreak was confined to two districts of Kerala, Kozhikode and Malappuram. Studies have revealed that a particular kind of fruit bat, Pteropus spp, was most likely the source of human infection in 2018.

2.consider the following statement about National Institute of Virology-

1. The National Institute of Virology is one of the major Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
2. It was established at Pune, Maharashtra in 1952
3. NIV is also the National Monitoring Centre for Influenza, Japanese encephalitis, Rota, Measles, Hepatitis and Coronavirus.

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

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,3.&4

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –d

The National Institute of Virology, Pune is an Indian virology research institute, and one of the translational science cells part of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). It was previously known as 'Virus Research Center' and was founded in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation. It has been designated as a WHO H5 reference laboratory for SE Asia region.



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The Virus Research Center (VRC), Pune came into existence in 1952 under the joint auspices of the ICMR and the Rockefeller Foundation, as a part of the global programme of investigations on the arthropod-borne group of viruses. In view of its expanded scope and activities, the VRC was re-designated as the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in 1978.

The NIV is identified today as the WHO Collaborating Center for arboviruses reference and hemorrhagic fever reference and research. NIV is also the National Monitoring Centre for Influenza, Japanese encephalitis, Rota, Measles, Hepatitis and Coronavirus.

3. consider the following statement about H9N2 virus.

1. Influenza A virus subtype H9N2 (A/H9N2) is a subtype of the species Influenza A virus (bird flu virus).
2. The H9N2 influenza virus can be transmitted by air droplet, dust, feed, or water.
3. The H9N2 subtype was isolated for the first time in china in 1966 from turkey flocks.

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

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

Answer –c

Influenza A virus subtype H9N2 (A/H9N2) is a subtype of the species Influenza A virus (bird flu virus). Over the years the H9N2 influenza strain caused illness in several children aged nine months to 5 years in Hong Kong with the latest occurring in December 2009. The H9N2 influenza virus can be transmitted by air droplet, dust, feed, or water. Chickens usually seemed to be healthy after the infection but some of them do show depression and ruffled feathers. The virus replicates itself in the trachea. It makes chickens more susceptible to secondary infections, especially Escherichia coli infections with a mortality rate of at least 10%. Also, the trachea or bronchi are easily embolized by mucus when the ventilation is poor, leading to severe respiratory disease and death. H9N2 is a subtype of influenza A virus, which causes human influenza as well as bird flu. The H9N2 subtype was isolated for the first time in Wisconsin, US in 1966 from turkey flocks. H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.

4. Catenation is the linkage of atoms of the same element into longer chains. Which of the following element exhibits the property of catenation?

- (a) Carbon



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- (b) Oxygen
- (c) Nitrogen
- (d) Hydrogen

Answer –a

Catenation is the bonding of atoms of the same element into a series, called a chain.[1] A chain or a ring shape may be open if its ends are not bonded to each other (an open-chain compound), or closed if they are bonded in a ring (a cyclic compound).

Catenation occurs most readily with carbon, which forms covalent bonds with other carbon atoms to form longer chains and structures. This is the reason for the presence of the vast number of organic compounds in nature. Carbon is most well known for its properties of catenation, with organic chemistry essentially being the study of catenated carbon structures (and known as catenae). Carbon chains in biochemistry combine any of various other elements, such as hydrogen, oxygen, and biometals, onto the backbone of carbon, and proteins[contradictory] can combine multiple chains encoded by multiple genes (such as light chains and heavy chains making up antibodies). However, carbon is by no means the only element capable of forming such catenae, and several other main-group elements are capable of forming an expansive range of catenae, including silicon, sulfur and boron. The ability of an element to catenate is primarily based on the bond energy of the element to itself, which decreases with more diffuse orbitals (those with higher azimuthal quantum number) overlapping to form the bond. Hence, carbon, with the least diffuse valence shell p orbital is capable of forming longer p-p sigma bonded chains of atoms than heavier elements which bond via higher valence shell orbitals. Catenation ability is also influenced by a range of steric and electronic factors, including the electronegativity of the element in question, the molecular orbital n and the ability to form different kinds of covalent bonds. For carbon, the sigma overlap between adjacent atoms is sufficiently strong that perfectly stable chains can be formed. With other elements this was once thought to be extremely difficult in spite of plenty of evidence to the contrary.

5. The xylem in plants is responsible for transportation of:

1. water
2. minerals
3. carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only



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(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer –b

Xylem is one of the two types of transport tissue in vascular plants, phloem being the other. The basic function of xylem is to transport water from roots to stems and leaves, but it also transports nutrients. The word "xylem" is derived from the Greek word ξύλον (xylon), meaning "wood"; the best-known xylem tissue is wood, though it is found throughout a plant. The term was introduced by Carl Nägeli in 1858.

Economy

Question 1.

Consider the following statements related to Currency War:

1. It refers to competitive revaluation of the currencies by the various economies.
2. It is mainly done in order to make the exports competitive and boost the economic growth.

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:

Question 2.

Which of the following are parameters of Regulatory Sandbox policy?

1. Live testing of new products
2. Controlled environment
3. Regulatory relaxations

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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



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D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer D:

Question 3.

What of the following is/are terms of reference for the Arbind Modi Task Force?

1. New direct tax legislation
2. Economic impact of demonetization

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer A:

Question 4.

Consider the following statements related to Capital Output Ratio:

1. The Capital Output ratio shows the relationship between the Investment rates and GDP Growth in a country.
2. The higher capital output ratio denotes higher efficiency of the capital

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:

Question 5.

Consider the following statements related to Participatory Notes (P-Notes):

1. These are the instruments used by the foreign investors to invest in India without getting registered with the SEBI



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2. These instruments are issued by the SEBI to the overseas investors directly.

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:

Polity

Question 1:

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, lays down the law for divorce, which does not apply to

Options:

- A. Buddhists
- B. Jains
- C. Parsis
- D. Sikhs

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Supreme Court used extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant divorce in a case of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage".

What are the grounds for divorce under Hindu Law?

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, lays down the law for divorce, which applies to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. Under Section 13 of the Act, the grounds for divorce include: "voluntary sexual intercourse with any person other than his or her spouse"; "cruelty"; desertion "for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition"; "ceas(ing) to be a Hindu by conversion to another religion"; and being "incurably of unsound mind". In addition, Section 13B provides for "divorce by mutual consent".

Section 27 of The Special Marriage Act, 1954 provides the grounds for grant of divorce in the case of marriages solemnised under that Act.

Question 2:



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Consider the following circuits of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

1. Himalayan
2. North East
3. Krishna
4. Spiritual
5. Wildlife
6. Sufi

Which of these is NOT one of the circuits of the scheme?

Options:

- A. 3 & 6 only
- B. 4 & 5 only
- C. 2 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Cabinet approves the release of funds for 10 projects of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme sanctioned in 2018-19. Tourism Ministry launched the scheme in 2015.

Objective: to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

Under the Scheme 15 circuits have been identified for development namely Himalayan Circuit, North East Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the GST council

1. Prime Minister will elect the Chairperson from amongst the union cabinet
2. As a member, the Union Minister of State will be in charge of Revenue of Finance
3. The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:



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The all-powerful GST Council, in its 38th meeting has voted for uniform rate of 28% on lotteries across the country.

To facilitate the setting up industrial parks, the Council has decided that all entities with 20% ownership by central or state governments will be exempt from GST payable for long-term land leases from January 1, 2020. Earlier, only entities with a 50% government stake were exempt.

How is the GST Council structured?

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is governed by the GST Council. Article 279 (1) of the amended Indian Constitution states that the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of the Article 279A.

Composition:

According to the article, GST Council will be a joint forum for the Centre and the States. It consists of the following members:

- The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson
- As a member, the Union Minister of State will be in charge of Revenue of Finance
- The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.

Question 4:

Kaleshwaram project, recently in the news, is in

Options:

- A. Karnataka
- B. Puducherry
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

Answer: D

Explanation:

Telangana State government has requested the Centre to treat Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) as a National Project. National Projects are provided Central grant of 90% of the estimated cost for their completion in a time bound manner. The Kaleshwaram project is an off-shoot of the original Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme. It is on the Godavari River.

Question 5:

'Operation twist' was recently carried out in the country by

Options:

- A. NAFED
- B. RBI
- C. SEBI
- D. SIDBI



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Answer: B

Explanation:

RBI will carry out US-style 'Operation Twist' to bring down interest rates. 'Operation Twist' is when the central bank uses the proceeds from sale of short-term securities to buy long-term government debt papers, leading to easing of interest rates on the long term papers.

International Relations

Question 1:

The phrase '301 probe' is related to which of the following nations?

Options:

- E. France
- F. Germany
- G. UK
- H. USA

Answer: D

Explanation:

On the sidelines of the NATO alliance talks, the U.S. announced that it could possibly levy duties up to 100% on \$2.4 billion in French imports into the country. The proposed tariffs could include French champagne, porcelain and some cheese varieties. The announcement comes after the office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) probe(301 probe) into France's Digital Services Tax (DST) concluded that a French tax measure is discriminatory towards specific U.S. technology companies. The '301' probe is a trade tool authorised by Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which the U.S. uses to assert its rights under trade agreements if it decides American industries are facing "unfair" foreign trade practices. France's DST is a 3% tax on the turnover of digital companies with global turnover of at least €750 million, of which €25 million is generated in France. U.S. tech giants, including Google, Amazon and Facebook, had called for the tax to be scrapped. USTR said that the tax was inconsistent with prevailing tax principles due to its retroactivities, application to revenue rather than income and extraterritorial application. While this particular round of tariffs does not impact India directly, the USTR's use of 301 probes is of relevance to the country.

Question 2:

Which of the following nations elected the youngest Prime Minister in the world?

Options:

- A. Norway
- B. Sweden
- C. Finland
- D. Netherlands

Answer: C



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Explanation:

The 34-year-old Finnish politician Sanna Marin, her country's Transport Minister, will soon become the world's youngest Prime Minister. The Transport Minister was chosen by Finland's Social Democratic Party to succeed Prime Minister Antti Rinne who on December 3 announced he was resigning in the face of criticism over the government's handling of a postal strike that lasted two weeks in November. Prime Minister-elect Marin will be Finland's third woman head of government. Marin will lead a five-party Centre-Left political coalition which is all led by women. Four of these women are in their early thirties. New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern is 39, while Ukrainian premier Oleksiy Honcharuk is 35.

Question 3:

'Benn Act', recently in the news, is related to which of the following?

Options:

- A. Impeachment of the US President
- B. Brexit
- C. US-Iran nuclear deal
- D. China's one-child policy

Answer: B

Explanation:

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson has won the biggest parliamentary majority Prime Minister has promised to quickly push through Parliament the Withdrawal Agreement giving consent to his Brexit deal.

What next?

Johnson's Withdrawal Agreement Bill (WAB) will be introduced within days. They will have until the deadline of January 31 to get the Bill through both Houses of Parliament. Once Parliament has passed the Bill, the European Parliament will need to ratify the Brexit deal at its end. That done, Britain will be out of the EU. A British delegation will thereafter begin talks on a trade deal that will define the UK's future relationship with the EU. Separate delegations will begin talks on trade deals with other countries as well, including India

Brexit:

Brexit – British exit – refers to the UK leaving the EU. Brexit is the scheduled withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). Following a June 2016 referendum, in which 51.9% of participating voters voted to leave, the UK government formally announced the country's withdrawal in March 2017, starting a two-year process that was due to conclude with the UK withdrawing on 29 March 2019.

As the UK parliament thrice voted against the negotiated withdrawal agreement, that deadline has been extended twice, and is currently 31 October 2019. **The 'Benn Act' that passed in Parliament requires the government to seek a third extension if no agreement is reached before 19 October.**

Question 4:



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Consider the following statements regarding child rights.

1. Children's rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, including in peaceful protest, are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
2. UNICEF was created in 1946 as International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) by UN relief Rehabilitation Administration to help children affected by World War II
3. UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Children's rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, including in peaceful protest, are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). UNCRC is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen. The treaty came into force in 1990. Currently, 196 countries have signed and ratified it (including India) except the United States (signed but not ratified) UNICEF thus urged its member-states to ensure that children can exercise this right in a safe and peaceful manner. About United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) UNICEF was created in 1946 as International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) by UN relief Rehabilitation Administration to help children affected by World War II UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953 and is devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.

Question 5:

Which of the following became the first nation in the world to deploy hypersonic weapons?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

President Vladimir Putin said that Russia is the only country in the world that has hypersonic weapons- weapons that travel faster than Mach5 (~6174kmph) and have the capability to manoeuvre during the entire flight. The first unit equipped with the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle is set to go on duty by Dec 2019, while that the air-launched Kinzhal hypersonic missiles already have entered service. Avangard has an intercontinental range and can fly in the atmosphere at a speed 20 times the speed of sound. Its ability to change both its course and its altitude en route to a target makes it immune to interception by the enemy. The Kinzhal, which is carried by MiG-31 fighter jets, entered service with the Russian air force last year. The missile flies 10 times faster than the speed of sound, has a range of more than 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) and can carry a nuclear or a conventional warhead. It is capable of hitting both land targets and navy ships.



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Do You Know?

Mach number is the ratio of the speed of the body to the speed of sound in the undisturbed medium through which the body is traveling. E.g. If the body is flying at Mach 3, then its speed is thrice the speed of sound in air (which is 332 m/s or 1195 km/hr). It is named in honor of Ernst Mach (1838-1916), a physicist from Austria.

History

Question 1. Under which Act the 20 years charter to trade by the British East India Company was permanently abolished?

- The Charter Act of 1813.
- The Charter Act of 1833.
- The Charter Act of 1853.
- The Government of India Act 1858.

ANS. C.

Explanation:

- Charter Act of 1853 was the last charter act passed for East India Company. It was passed on expiry of charter act of 1833.
- The charter was renewed but no substantial changes were made.
- However, this was for the first time, that this charter act, unlike other charter acts, did not fix any limit for the continuance of the administration of the company in India. In other words, the 20 years charter to trade provision was permanently abolished.
- The act provided that the Indian territories will remain under the Governance of the company, until the parliament otherwise directed.

Question 2. Consider the following statements:

1. Lord Wellesley had established the College of Fort William in Calcutta for education and training of new recruits of civil service.
2. In 1806 the East Indian College at Haileybury in England was established for the education and training of civil servants.

Select the correct code:

- 1 only.
- 2 only.
- Both 1 and 2.
- Neither 1 nor 2.

Ans. c.

Explanation:



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- Wellesley set up an institution called [Fort William College](#) in 1800. But the [Court of Directors](#) refused to fund the College on the plea of irregularity.
- It was established without taking any prior permission from the Court. The Court rejected Wellesley's Fort William College, but not his idea of building a professional bureaucracy for administering the colonial state.
- The Court resolved to establish a similar training and educational institute in England. The East India College, commonly known as Haileybury College (from its location) was thus established in 1806.

Question 3 : Which Governor- General played a crucial role in the abolishment of the practice of sati in 1829?

- Lord Hastings.
- William Bentinck.
- Lord Wellesley.
- Lord Hardinge.

Ans. B.

Explanation:

- The Bengal Sati Regulation which banned the Sati practice in all jurisdictions of British India was passed on December 4, 1829 by the then Governor-General **Lord William Bentinck**.

Question 4. Consider the following statements:

- The Charter Act 1813 directed the Company to spend the sum of Rs. 1 lakh for the education of modern sciences in India.**
- The Wood's Dispatch of 1854 asked the Govt of India to follow "downward filtration" theory.**

Select the correct code:

- 1 only.
- 2 only.
- Both 1 and 2.
- Neither 1 nor 2.

Ans. a.

Explanation.

- [Sir Charles Wood](#), the [President of the Board of Control](#), had an important effect on spreading English learning and female education in India.
- When in 1854 he sent a dispatch to Lord Dalhousie, the then [Governor-General of India](#), Wood suggested that primary schools must adopt vernacular languages, high schools must adopt Anglo-vernacular language and at college-level English should be the medium of education. This is known as Wood's despatch.
- Vocational and women's education were also stressed upon.
- One of the most favourable steps taken was to create an English class among Indian people to be used as workforce in the company's administration.
- Wood's Dispatch is called **Magna Carta** of English Education in India.
- It rejected 'Downward Filtration theory'.

Question 5. Which one of the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy is incorrect?



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- He was a pioneer of Indian Journalism.
- He condemned the oppressive practices of the Bengal zamindars.
- He opposed the Vedantic message of worship.
- He supported the Permanent Settlement of 1793.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was supporter of Vedantic message of worship of one God.
- In 1828, Brahmo Sabha was founded to purify Hinduism and to preach monotheism or belief in one God, influenced by Vedanta.
- He demanded the maximum rents paid by the cultivators should be permanently fixed so that they too would enjoy the benefits of the Permanent Settlement of 1793.

Geography

1) Which company is credited as the 'lowest cost producer of bauxite' in world for the year 2018 :-

- MALCO
- HINDALCO
- NALCO
- BALCO

Answer c

Explanation :-

NALCO: It's the abbreviation to National Aluminum Company Limited. It is a Navratna group 'A' CPSE having integrated and diversified operations in mining, metal and power under Ministry of Mines, Government of India. Presently, Government of India holds 52% equity of NALCO. It is one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminum- Power Complex in India. NALCO has achieved the distinction of being the 'lowest cost producer of bauxite' in world for the year 2018, globally.

Sridhar Patra is the Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed him as the new chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). He has been appointed as CMD of NALCO till the date of his superannuation, i.e. on 31 October 2024.

- 2) Consider the following statements on the savannah monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*), a medium-sized species of monitor lizard :-
- It is native to Africa.
 - They have both a mammal and bird-hybrid system for breathing.



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Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

Savannah monitor lizards: The savannah monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*) is a medium-sized species of monitor lizard native to Africa. The species is known as Bosc's monitor in Europe, since French scientist Louis Bosc first described the species. It belongs to the subgenus *Polydaedalus*, along with the Nile, the ornate and other monitors.

Birds and mammals are on extreme ends of the airflow spectrum. Mammals inhale oxygen-rich air and they exhale depleted air, exhibiting a so-called tidal flow pattern. In contrast, bird breath travels tidally through part of the respiratory system, but in a one-way loop throughout most of the lung.

Biologists have discovered that Savannah monitor lizards have a mammal and bird-hybrid system for breathing. The reason for this strange breathing apparatus is still unknown.

- 3) Government e-commerce portal GeM has launched a national outreach programme, "GeM Samvaad". Consider the following statements that :-
- (i) It is to interlink the local sellers.
 - (ii) It is specifically for North East India.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

GeM: It is abbreviated form of Government e-commerce. GeM is the national public procurement portal that offers end to end solutions for all procurement needs of Central and State Government Departments, autonomous institutions, Public Sector Units (PSUs) and local bodies. It was launched



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on 9 August 2016. It has not only transformed public procurement in India by leveraging technology but also by making procurement contactless, paperless, and cashless. It has more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services, more than 3 lakh registered sellers and service providers and more than 40 thousand government buyer organizations.

Government e-commerce portal GeM has launched a national outreach programme, "GeM Samvaad", to bring on-board more local sellers. It was launched by Anup Wadhawan, Secretary of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India (GoI) and Chairman of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in New Delhi.

GeM Samvaad: It is an outreach programme which aims to spread awareness about the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). It will not only take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace but will also cater to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers. It will cover all States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country.

4) Consider the following statements on "Future Skills PRIME" programme :-

- (i) It plans to achieve the target of skill development in 10 years.
- (ii) It shall work in unison with WIPRO.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d

Explanation :-

Skill Prime: The Government of India (GoI) has announced Rs 436 crore for Future Skills PRIME programme which is an outlay for skilling 4 lakh professionals in futuristic areas such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and cybersecurity over the next 3 years. The "Future Skills PRIME" programme will be jointly rolled out by the information technology ministry and industry body Nasscom and will seek to position the initiative as India stack for digital talent. The programme seeks to increase employment.

5) A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Aramco Asia for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector. Consider the following statements on that :-



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(iii) It will bring Indian MSMEs on global platform.

(iv) Aramco Asia is based at Dhahran.

Choose the correct alternative :-

(a) only i

(b) only ii

(c) both

(d) none

Answer c

Explanation :-

NSIC & Saudi Aramco: It refers to National Small Industries Corporation and Saudi Aramco is also known as Saudi Arabian Oil Company. A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Aramco Asia. for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector. The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out a space as vendors in Global space. The MoU is also aimed for the development of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.

The MoU was signed by Sh. P. Udayakumar, Director (P&M) from NSIC and Mr. Mohammed Al Mughirah, President, Aramco Asia for the development of Ministry of MSME.

NSIC: The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) was founded on 1955 as a Government of India agency and was later made into a fully owned government corporation. Its headquartered in New Delhi, India. It is a flagship Mini Ratna public sector undertaking (PSU) under Union Ministry of MSME in the business of facilitating MSMEs in India.

Saudi Aramco: It is a Saudi Arabian national petroleum and natural gas company based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It is world's largest Oil & Gas Company and is one of the largest companies in world by revenue.