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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the SPICe+:

1. It has been rolled out by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. It is a part of India's effort to improve Ease of Doing Business (EODB).

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 Ministry of Corporate Affairs deployed a new Web Form christened 'SPICe+', replacing the existing SPICe form.

The initiative is a part of India's effort to improve Ease of Doing Business (EODB).

SPICe+ would offer 10 services by 3 Central Govt Ministries & Departments. (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance) and One State Govt.(Maharashtra), thereby saving as many procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in

India.

It would be applicable for all new company incorporations.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the Cauvery delta region:

1. It will be declared as a 'Protected Special Agricultural Zone' (PSAZ) by the Karnataka government.
2. Only Agro based Industries would be given permission to be built in the delta region.

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 Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu will be declared as 'Protected Special Agricultural Zone' (PSAZ) by the TN govt.

Declaring PSAZ ensures that particular region will not be granted permission for any new projects like those related to hydrocarbons.

Only Agro based Industries would be given permission to be built.

The special protection will be bestowed on Cauvery Delta districts such as Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirappalli districts.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about Santusht Portal:

1. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched Santusht portal.
2. It is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes.
3. It is to monitor the implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.

Which of these statements is / are correct?



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Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) has launched 'Santusht Portal' to monitor the implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.

The objective of 'Santusht' is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes of the Labor Ministry through constant monitoring. The government aims to implement all four codes on wages, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, health and working conditions. These are expected to improve ease of doing business and safeguard the interest of workers.

Question 4:

Exercise Ajeya warrior is a joint military exercise between

Options:

- A. India and France
- B. India and USA
- C. India and Russia
- D. India and UK

Answer: D

Explanation:

The fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020 between India and the United Kingdom will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.

Exercise Ajeya warrior is a joint military exercise between India and the UK.

It was held for the first time in 2013.



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Question 5:

With reference to the SARAS initiative, consider the following statements:

1. Coal India's flagship subsidiary NCL (Northern Coalfields Limited) has set up a centre named SARAS.
2. It aims to promote innovation, R&D and skill development along with improving the company's operational efficiency and utilize resources at optimum level.

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: D

Explanation:

Coal India's flagship subsidiary NCL (Northern Coalfields Limited) has set up a centre named SARAS

SARAS stands for Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support.

It aims to promote innovation, R&D and skill development along with improving the company's operational efficiency and utilize resources at optimum level.

SARAS will help and enable the company in Integration of Innovation and Research for enhancing coal production, productivity, and safety in mines.

Besides, the SARAS would also help establish centres of excellence to ensure technical support to R&D along with thrust on quality skill development and employment to local youths in and around the company's operational area.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement which is true regarding DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019.



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1. DNA testing is allowed only in specific of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill.
2. National DNA Databank and regional DNA Databanks will store DNA Profiles in a specified format
3. Establishment of DNA Regulatory Board which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories.
4. Requirement of written consent if the offence carries a punishment of up to seven years. If the offence carries more than seven years of imprisonment or death, consent is not required.

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

Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan introduced "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" in the Lok Sabha. While introducing, the Union Minister said that this Bill is for the regulation of use and application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.

The primary intended purpose of "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019" is for expanding the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country. The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons, is well recognized across the world. By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in this country, there is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable, and furthermore that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens. The proposed legislation will empower the criminal justice delivery system by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the gold standard in crime investigations. Establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations.

The Bill provides for the regulation of use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of certain persons.

Use of DNA Data: Under the Bill, DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill. These include offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and for civil matters such as paternity suits. Further, the Schedule includes DNA testing for matters related to establishment of individual identity.

Collection of DNA: While preparing a DNA profile, bodily substances of persons may be collected by the investigating authorities. Authorities are required to obtain consent for collection in certain situations. For arrested persons, authorities are required to obtain written consent if the offence carries a punishment of up to seven years. If the offence carries more than seven years of imprisonment or death, consent is not required. Further, if the person is a victim, or relative of a missing person, or a minor or disabled person, the authorities are required to obtain the written consent of such victim, or relative, or parent or guardian of the minor or disabled person. If consent is



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not given in these cases, the authorities can approach a Magistrate who may order the taking of bodily substances of such persons.

DNA Data Bank: The Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more states. DNA laboratories are required to share DNA data prepared by them with the National and Regional DNA Data Banks. Every Data Bank will be required to maintain indices for the following categories of data: (i) a crime scene index, (ii) a suspects' or undertrials' index, (iii) an offenders' index, (iv) a missing persons' index, and (v) an unknown deceased persons' index.

Removal of DNA profiles: The Bill states that the criteria for entry, retention, or removal of the DNA profile will be specified by regulations. However, the Bill provides for removal of the DNA profiles of the following persons: (i) of a suspect if a police report is filed or court order given, (ii) of an undertrial if a court order is given, and (iii) on written request, for persons who are not a suspect, offender or undertrial, from the crime scene or missing persons' index.

DNA Regulatory Board: The Bill provides for the establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board, which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories. The Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, will be the ex officio Chairperson of the Board. The Board will comprise additional members including: (i) experts in the field of biological sciences, and (ii) Director General of the National Investigation Agency and the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Functions of the Board: The functions of the Board include: (i) advising governments on all issues related to establishing DNA laboratories or Data Banks, and (ii) granting accreditation to DNA laboratories. Further, the Board is required to ensure that all information relating to DNA profiles with the Data Banks, laboratories, and other persons are kept confidential.

DNA laboratories: Any laboratory undertaking DNA testing is required to obtain accreditation from the Board. The Board may revoke the accreditation for reasons including, failure to: (i) undertake DNA testing, or (ii) comply with the conditions attached to the accreditation. If the accreditation is revoked, an appeal will lie before the central government or any other authority notified by the central government. Further, every DNA laboratory is required to follow standards for quality assurance in collection, storing, and analysis of DNA samples. After depositing the DNA profile for criminal cases, the laboratory is required to return the biological sample to the investigating officer. In all other cases, the sample must be destroyed.

Offences: The Bill specifies penalties for various offences, including: (i) for disclosure of DNA information, or (ii) using DNA sample without authorization. For instance, disclosure of DNA information will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years and fine of up to one lakh rupees.

2. Consider the following statement which is true regarding MANAV -

1. Department Indian council medical recently launched MANAV Human Atlas Initiative.



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2. For the first time, Indian scientists will be mapping every single tissue of the human body to have deeper understanding of the roles of tissues and cells linked to various diseases.

3. it is public and private venture.

4. The aim is to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of the human body.

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-B

A new human atlas initiative has been launched to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of human body. The project named Manav has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology and Persistent Systems, a biotechnology company.

This mega project will collate and integrate molecular information on human tissues and organs that currently lies hidden in research articles in an unstructured and disorganized form. The project would utilize large biological community, both students and scientists, for extracting and adding the information from scientific literature at the level of cells and organs. The database would eventually help researchers in identifying gaps in current knowledge and help in future projects in diagnostics and disease biology.

The idea emerged from the success of "Smart India hackathon", a nationwide contest in which large number of engineering students are being encouraged to find solutions to the pressing problems. In the same way, Manav will engage biology students to build their skills in reading scientific literature and deepen their understanding of biological system. In this public-private venture, DBT and Persistent Systems will invest Rs 13 crore and Rs 7 crore respectively. The project will be executed by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and National Center for Cell Sciences (NCCS) based at Pune. While the institutes will train students, the technology platform and data management will be provided by the private partner. Students and faculty from DBT Star colleges and Biotechnology Information network system (BTIS) network will also be involved. The project team is in talks with other scientific agencies such as the All India Council of Technical Education, Council of



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Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), University Grants Commission and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for possible collaboration.

This initiative will not only seal the gaps in knowledge on human body but will also create a trained population of biologists. With the data curation and analysis skills imparted during this project, students will have better opportunities for the job in life science sector. The undergraduates and postgraduates from the various distinct fields of biology such as zoology, biotechnology, botany, biochemistry, pharmacology and medical sciences can register and contribute to this project. A similar Human Cell Atlas project was launched in 2016 as a collaborative effort between scientists. This project is designed to generate data pertaining to cellular and molecular activities of various cell types in the body in both its normal and disease state using techniques such as single cell genomics. The Indian project, on the other hand, depends on the knowledge already available in scientific literature to derive information on cellular network. The project will be executed in four steps. First will be creation of a robust online data annotation platform. Second step would involve data annotation and curation by students on the platform. Evaluation of generated data and model by faculty and then senior scientists for quality check would constitute third step. Finally, integration of data, model building and visualization. Currently the project is in its beta testing mode where students are being trained at NCCS, Pune campus to annotate and curate the molecular data related to research on human skin and assign them to various cells, tissues and organs via the newly created annotation platform. The information obtained will be checked by teachers and scientists. The team says that the feedback from students and faculty would help in fine tuning the system. The training in future will be conducted through webinars which will ensure involvement of larger student community from across the country can contribute to this project.

3. Which of the following statement is correct regarding photovoltaic cell?

- (a) It converts mechanical energy into chemical energy.
- (b) It converts chemical energy into electric energy.
- (c) It converts light energy into electric energy.
- (d) It converts mechanical energy into light energy

Answer-c

A photovoltaic (PV) cell is an energy harvesting technology, that converts solar energy into useful electricity through a process called the photovoltaic effect. There are several different types of PV cells which all use semiconductors to interact with incoming photons from the Sun in order to generate an electric current. The photovoltaic effect is a process that generates voltage or electric current in a photovoltaic cell when it is exposed to sunlight. These solar cells are composed of two different types of semiconductors—a p-type and an n-type—that are joined together to create a p-n



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junction. By joining these two types of semiconductors, an electric field is formed in the region of the junction as electrons move to the positive p-side and holes move to the negative n-side. This field causes negatively charged particles to move in one direction and positively charged particles in the other direction. Light is composed of photons, which are simply small bundles of electromagnetic radiation or energy. When light of a suitable wavelength is incident on these cells, energy from the photon is transferred to an electron of the semiconducting material, causing it to jump to a higher energy state known as the conduction band. In their excited state in the conduction band, these electrons are free to move through the material, and it is this motion of the electron that creates an electric current in the cell.

4. Berne Convention is related to which of the following?

- (a) Safeguarding Human Rights
- (b) Copyright Infringement laws
- (c) Damage Caused by Foreign aircraft to third Parties
- (d) Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Answer-b

The Berne Convention, adopted in 1886, deals with the protection of works and the rights of their authors. It provides creators such as authors, musicians, poets, painters etc. with the means to control how their works are used, by whom, and on what terms. It is based on three basic principles and contains a series of provisions determining the minimum protection to be granted, as well as special provisions available to developing countries that want to make use of them.

5. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Golden rice is the collective name of rice varieties that are genetically modified to counter vitamin A deficiency in developing countries.
2. European scientists developed the first strain of Golden Rice towards the end of the 2000.
3. Vitamin A deficiency generally occurs due to an imbalanced diet including limited access to fresh fruit, vegetables and animal products.
4. Provitamin A colors the grains yellow orange, hence the name 'Golden Rice'.

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

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

ANSWER-a

Golden rice is a variety of rice (*Oryza sativa*) produced through genetic engineering to biosynthesize beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, in the edible parts of rice.[1][2] It is intended to produce a fortified food to be grown and consumed in areas with a shortage of dietary vitamin A. Golden rice is the collective name of rice varieties that are genetically modified to counter vitamin A deficiency in developing countries• European scientists developed the first strain of Golden Rice towards the end of the 1990s. Golden rice differs from standard rice in that it contains extra genes one from maize and one from bacterial



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origin together responsible for the production of provitamin A (betacarotene) in the rice grain. Provitamin A colors the grains yelloworange, hence the name 'Golden Rice'. Once absorbed into the body, provitamin A is converted into vitamin A. Provitamin A is found in many fruits and vegetables; it is also what makes carrotsorange, for example. Research has indicated that one cup of Golden

Rice can provide up to 50 per cent of the daily requirement of an adult for vitamin A. The Golden Rice can be grown just the same way we grow normal rice. There is no change in cost of cultivation. It reduces water use by up to 30 per cent without any yield loss. It should not be stored for more than three months. It may lose its nutrients after that.

Vitamin A deficiency generally occurs due to an imbalanced diet including limited access to fresh fruit, vegetables and animal products. Persistent deficiency in this vital nutrient can result in blindness, illness and even death. Vitamin A deficiency also compromises the immune system, which means children die from common diseases including diarrhea.

Economy

Question 1.

Consider the following statements related to Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

1. It is a statutory body created under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 in order to promote energy efficiency measures.
2. It implements the UJALA and Atal Jyoti Yojana Schemes.

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.

Consider the following statements:

1. 100% FDI under automatic route is allowed in mining of coal
2. Coal sector was nationalized under Lal bahadur Shastri.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

Answer A:

Question 3.

Which among the following is/are considered to be the assets of the RBI?

1. G-Secs with the RBI.
2. Currency in Circulation.
3. CRR Deposits of the Banks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer A:

Question 4.

Which among the following factors can lead to increase in the Net profits of the RBI?

1. Increase in the purchase of G-Secs by RBI under the Open Market Operations.
2. Increase in the loans extended by the RBI to the Commercial Banks.
3. Appreciation in the value of Gold held by RBI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer D:



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Question 5.

Which of the following are correct about Prompt Corrective action framework of RBI?

1. RBI can cap the lending limit of a bank to one sector.
2. RBI can supersede banks board.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer C:

Polity

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Good Governance Index.

1. GGI will consider 10 sectors: agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judicial & public security, environment, and citizen-centric governance.
2. The states and UTs in GGI are divided into three groups: a). Big States, b). North-East & Hill States and c). UTs.
3. Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on the 25th December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

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:

Good governance can be referred as an effective and efficient process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented) keeping the amelioration of citizens as the topmost priority. Resource allocation, creation of formal establishments, setting up rules and regulations etc., are part of achieving this goal. The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs, enable states and UTs to



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formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.

GGI will consider 10 sectors: agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare and development, judicial & public security, environment, and citizen-centric governance. These ten Governance Sectors are measured on total 50 indicators. The states and UTs are divided into three groups: a). Big States, b). North-East & Hill States and c). UTs. On the index, Tamil Nadu has got the highest score (5.62), followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh (5.4, 5.1, and 5.05) respectively. In economic governance ranking, Karnataka leads, followed by Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

The MoS (PP) Dr Jitendra Singh launched the 'Good Governance Index' at an event organized by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, on the occasion of Good Governance Day.

Good Governance Day

Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on the 25th December, the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about minorities in India.

1. 29 (protection of the interests of minorities) and Article 30 (the right of minorities to administer educational institutions) of the Constitution deals with special provisions for minorities.
2. According to the Supreme Court, minorities can't be recognized state-wise, but only nationwide.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The petition asked the Supreme Court to frame guidelines to "identify and define" religious minorities in every State, especially where Hindus are in a minority (in eight states) so as to protect their culture and interests. Articles 29 (protection of the interests of minorities) and Article 30 (the right of minorities to administer educational institutions) of the Constitution deals with special provisions for minorities. However, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition stating that the States have been carved language-wise. But religion is beyond all borders, especially political borders. Religion has to be taken on a pan-India basis

Question 3:



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The Union government is testing a prototype of an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram, for secure internal use. What is the codename of this platform?

Options:

- A. GIMS
- B. Textual
- C. GAME
- D. ITS

Answer: A

Explanation:

The government is testing a prototype of an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram, for secure internal use – codenamed GIMS. It has been designed and developed by the Kerala unit of National Informatics Centre (NIC). GIMS is being packaged for employees of Central and state government departments and organisations for intra and inter organisation communications. It is being developed as a secure Indian alternative without the security concerns attached with apps hosted abroad or those owned by foreign entities. Like WhatsApp, GIMS employs end-to-end encryption for one-to-one messaging.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements about the Nirbhaya Fund.

1. It was established in 2013 for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.
2. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund.
3. It was established by Union Women & Child Welfare Ministry.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Expressing concern over the recent sexual assault cases, NHRC issued notices to the Centre, States and Union Territories seeking reports on the standard operating procedure (SOP) for dealing with such cases and the use of the Nirbhaya Fund. The Commission's action comes in the wake of the gang-rape and murder of a doctor in Hyderabad that has spurred a debate on the condition of women's security in the country once again. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the NHRC observed that there was a "dire need for all stakeholders to work jointly to get rid of this evil."

About National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991. The purpose of the NHRC is, suo moto or through the petition of a person, to investigate the violation of human rights or the failures of the state or other to prevent a human rights violation. The commissions may also take on research



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about human rights, create awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.

About Nirbhaya Fund

It was established in 2013 for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, established by Union Finance Ministry

Question 5:

Consider the following statements regarding Foreigners' tribunals in India.

1. The tribunal has the authority to decide whether a person is a foreigner within the ambit of the Foreigners Act, 1946.
2. The tribunal has powers similar to those of a civil court.
3. It gives reasonable opportunity to the person alleged to be a foreigner to produce evidence in support of his case, before passing its order.
4. A recent amendment has empowered the chief secretaries in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. All except 1
- B. All except 2
- C. All except 3
- D. All except 4

Answer: D

Explanation:

When was the Foreigners Act made more stringent?

The legislature enacted the Foreigners Act, 1946, by repealing the 1940 Act. It conferred wide powers to deal with all foreigners. It empowered the government to make provisions for prohibiting, regulating or restricting the entry of foreigners into India. It also restricted the rights enjoyed by foreigners in terms of their stay in the country if any such orders are passed by the authority. The 1946 Act empowered the government to take such steps as are necessary, including the use of force for securing compliance with such directions. The 'burden of proof' lies with the person, and not with the authorities still applicable in all States and Union Territories. This has been upheld by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

What about the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order?

In 1964 the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order was brought in. The tribunal has the authority to decide whether a person is a foreigner within the ambit of the Foreigners Act, 1946. The tribunal has powers similar to those of a civil court. It gives reasonable opportunity to the person alleged to be a foreigner to produce evidence in support of his case, before passing its order. In June this year, the Home Ministry made certain amendments in the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964. It was to empower district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.



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International Relations

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)

1. Without India, RCEP accounts for nearly 1/3rd of global GDP.
2. RCEP negotiations started in November 2012 at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia.
3. Seven years after India joined negotiations for the 16-nation ASEAN-led RCEP India dropped out of the agreement, citing its negative effects on "farmers, MSMEs and the dairy sector"

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- E. 2 only
- F. 2 & 3 only
- G. 1 & 3 only
- H. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Seven years after India joined negotiations for the 16-nation ASEAN (Association for South East Asian Nations)-led RCEP India dropped out of the agreement, citing its negative effects on "farmers, MSMEs and the dairy sector". RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between ASEAN and its six FTA partners – China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Ten member states of ASEAN are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. Without India, RCEP accounts for nearly 1/3rd of global GDP. But they have less than a third of the population.

Why India opted out?

The deal requires the gradual elimination of tariffs which may flood Indian markets with Chinese goods and agricultural produce from Oceania, harming local producers. Lack of access to Indian services - allowing Indian labour mobility to other countries for services – in the RCEP countries (Services is India's strong area and has huge potential to tap into RCEP market)

Can India join later? - Yes, if the issues India has with the deal are resolved

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about India's dairy sector.

1. Due to Operation Flood after the 1960s, India's contribution to world milk production rose from 5% in 1970 to 20% in 2018.
2. India does not import or export milk in any significant quantity.
3. It is expected that in 2033, India's milk production would rise to 330 MMT while its milk demand would be 292 MMT, making India a likely milk-surplus country by 2033

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: D

Explanation:

India's dairy sector provides livelihood to about 70 million households. A key feature of India's dairy sector is the predominance of small producers. In 2017, if the average herd size in a dairy farm was 191 in the U.S., 355 in Oceania, 148 in the U.K. and 160 in Denmark, it was just 2 in India. Yet, due to Operation Flood after the 1960s, India's contribution to world milk production rose from 5% in 1970 to 20% in 2018. As a result, India does not import or export milk in any significant quantity. In 2033, India's milk production would rise to 330 MMT while its milk demand would be 292 MMT. Thus, India is likely to be a milk-surplus country by 2033.

Question 3:

The 'One China policy' followed by many nations, including Vietnam, means that

Options:

- A. China insists that Macau is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day.
- B. China insists that Hong Kong is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day.
- C. China insists that Taiwan is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day.
- D. China insists that Tibet is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Vietnam reiterated that it adheres to the one-China policy and expect China to adhere to international law About One China Policy. It is a principle whereby China insists Taiwan is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day. The policy can be traced back to 1949 and the end of the Chinese civil war. The defeated Nationalists, also known as the Kuomintang, retreated to Taiwan and made it their seat of government while the victorious Communists began ruling the mainland as the People's Republic of China. Both sides said they represented all of China. Since then China's ruling Communist Party has threatened to use force if Taiwan ever formally declares independence, but it has also pursued a softer diplomatic track with the island in recent years.

Question 4:

Which of the following is a landlocked nation?

Options:

- A. Bolivia
- B. Venezuela
- C. Uruguay
- D. Colombia

Answer: A

Explanation:



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The President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, has resigned amid turmoil following his disputed re-election last month. He has been in power for nearly 14 years. He left the post after losing the support of the army and the police.

Bolivia has been rattled by weeks of anti-government protests following the reports of election fraud. The Bolivia is a landlocked country located in South America. It is bordered to the north and east by Brazil, to the southeast by Paraguay, to the south by Argentina, to the southwest by Chile, and to the northwest by Peru. Alongside Paraguay, it is one of the only two landlocked countries in the Americas.

Question 5:

The infamous 'Tiananmen Square' is in

Options:

- A. Egypt
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Libya
- D. China

Answer: D

Explanation:

Hong Kong's status: It was a British colony for more than 150 years – part of it, Hong Kong island, was ceded to the UK after a war in 1842. Later, China also leased the rest of Hong Kong – the New Territories – to the British for 99 years. It became a busy trading port, and its economy took off in the 1950s as it became a manufacturing hub. The territory was also popular with migrants and dissidents fleeing instability, poverty or persecution in mainland China. In the early 1980s, as the deadline for the 99-year-lease approached, Britain and China began talks on the future of Hong Kong – with the communist government in China arguing that all of Hong Kong should be returned to Chinese rule. The two sides reached a deal in 1984 that would see Hong Kong return to China in 1997, under the principle of “one country, two systems”. This meant that while becoming part of one country with China, Hong Kong would enjoy “a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs” for 50 years. As a result, Hong Kong has its own legal system and borders, and rights including freedom of assembly and free speech are protected. For example, it is one of the few places in Chinese territory where people can commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, where the military opened fire on unarmed protesters in Beijing.

History

Question 1. Which of the following was not one of the cardinal principles of Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of satyagraha?

- a. Truthfulness
- b. Non violence.
- c. Fearlessness.
- d. Abstinence.

Ans. d.



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Explanation:

- **Satyagraha**, (Sanskrit and Hindi: “holding onto truth”) concept introduced in the early 20th century by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) to designate a determined but nonviolent resistance to evil. Gandhi’s satyagraha became a major tool in the Indian struggle against British imperialism and has since been adopted by protest groups in other countries.
- Satyagraha draws from the ancient Indian ideal of [ahimsa](#) (“noninjury”), which is pursued with particular rigour by [Jains](#), many of whom live in Gujarat, where Gandhi grew up.

Question2 . Which of the following persons was /were not involved with the foundation of the Anushilan Samiti of Calcutta in 1902?

1. Promotha Mitter.
2. Abani Mukherji.
3. Barindra Kumar Ghosh.
4. Jatindranath Banerjee.
5. Pulin Das.

Select the correct code:

- a. 2 and 4 .
- b. 3 and 5 .
- c. 2 and 5.
- d. 3 and 4.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- The Anushilan Samiti was established by Pramathanath Mitra, a barrister from Calcutta.
- The people associated with this samiti were Sri Aurobindo , Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin, Bhupendra Natha Datta, Barindra Ghosh etc.
- Out of them Bhupendra Nath Datta was brother of Swami Vivekananda.
- Barindra Ghosh was sent to Paris to learn the science of Bomb Making and here he came in touch were Madam Kama. Madam Kama was already associated with the India House and the Paris India Society.

Question 3. Which of the following did not play an important part in the swadeshi agitation?

- a. Peasants.
- b. Students.
- c. Women.
- d. Muslims.

Ans. a.

Explanation:



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- The Swadeshi movement was undertaken by the Indian nationalist leaders to remove the British from power and improve India's economic conditions. The movement involved boycotting British products and using domestic products and production processes instead. The movement was the strongest in Bengal and was also called the Bandemataram movement.
- Except peasants, all participated in the swadeshi movt.

Question 4. Who among the following viceroys became a victim of one of the convicts during his visit to the Andamans?

- Lord Dufferin.
- Lord Mayo.
- John Shore.
- Lord Rippon.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- **Sher Ali Afridi**, also called **Shere Ali**, is known for killing [Lord Mayo](#), the [Viceroy of India](#), on 8 February 1872. He was a prisoner on the [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#) at the time, sentenced for murder.

Question 5. The play Nil Darpan (1860) of the famous Bengali writer Dinbandhu Mitra portrays the oppression of –

- Artisans.
- Handloom weavers.
- Tribals.
- Indigo planters.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- **Nil Darpan** (*The Indigo Mirror*) is a [Bengali](#) play written by [Dinabandhu Mitra](#) in 1858–1859. The play was published in [Dhaka](#) in 1860, under a pseudonym of the author.
- The play was essential to *Nil Vidroha*, better known as the [Indigo Revolt](#) of February–March 1859 in Bengal, when farmers refused to sow indigo in their fields to protest against exploitative farming under the [British Raj](#).