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Date: 24th Apr 2020 (Set 6)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES):

1. They are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
2. They are based on US emission standards.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES) were introduced in the year 2000. They are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

They are based on European (EURO) emission standards.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the National Supercomputing Mission:

1. The Mission envisages empowering national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid.
2. It is being implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:



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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The National Supercomputing Mission envisages empowering national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.

These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN).

It is being implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) through Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the Solar Charkha Mission:

1. It is a Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE) initiative.
2. It is an enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of Solar Charkha Clusters.
3. It will help in development of Green Economy.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

It is a Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) initiative launched during June 2018.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) would implement the programme.



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It is an enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of Solar Charkha Clusters.

It seeks to generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.

Question 4:

Amrabad Tiger Reserve is located in which of the following states?

Options:

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Telangana

Answer: D

Explanation:

Amrabad Tiger Reserve lies in the state of Telangana. It lies in Nallamala hills. Chenchus tribe reside in this tiger reserve. It contains ruins of the ancient Nagarjuna ViswaVidyalam run by the great Buddhist scholar Nagarjuna Acharya.

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about Red Panda:

1. It is listed Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List.
2. It is found only in India.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:



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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Red Panda is listed Endangered on IUCN Red List. It is also listed in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China.

ECONOMY

Question1:

Which among the following is/are the initiatives recently started by NITI Aayog?

- 1. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)
- 2. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat
- 3. Composite Water Management Index
- 4. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer.B:

Explanation:

SATH is aimed at initiating transformation in two key social sectors—education and health, by hand-holding States towards improving their social sector indicators and providing technical support over three years. It was launched with selection of states through unique challenge method.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, it was conceptualized to make our country united, strong and promote excellence in all walks of life by means of long-term inter-state engagements through cultural exchanges and education.

Question 2:

Which among the following International agencies publishes the Global Investment Trend Monitor Report?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)



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D. World Bank

Answer.B:

Explanation:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published the "Global Investment Trend Monitor" Report. This report focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and measures to improve its contribution to development. The United States remained the largest recipient of FDI, attracting \$251 billion in inflows, followed by China with flows of \$140 billion and Singapore with \$110 billion. India has been placed at 8th Position with total FDI inflows of \$ 49 billion.

Question.3:

Which among the following Energy Efficiency Initiatives is/are implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?

1. Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC)
2. Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA)
3. UJALA Scheme
4. Atal Jyoti Yojana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer C:

Explanation;

UJALA SCHEME: UNNAT JYOTI BY AFFORDABLE LEDS FOR ALL: It involves distribution of the energy efficient LED bulbs to the consumers.

Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY): To illuminate dark regions through establishment of solar streetlights.

Question 4:

With reference to Off-Budget Financing, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the loans borrowed by the PSUs based on the Government's guarantee of repayment.
2. The Off-budget Financing is undertaken only for capital expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Explanation;

The Off-Budget Financing refers to the expenditure undertaken by the Public sector undertakings (PSUs) through the market borrowings based upon guarantee of repayment of loans given by Government. For example, let's say the government needs to invest in the Railways. It may ask the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to borrow money from the market and finance railway projects. However, the Government guarantees the repayment of principal and interest for the money borrowed by Indian Railway Finance Corporation in case it fails to repay the borrowed money. Such kind of expenditure undertaken by Indian Railway Finance Corporation can be considered to be "Off Budget" financing. It is to be noted that this guarantee of the government could become a liability in future, however it is not accounted under the Government Budget.



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Question 5:

Which among the following is/are part of Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BITs) put forth by the Government?

1. Enterprise based Definition of Investment
2. Exclusion of MFN treatment
3. Freedom to the investors to initiate international arbitrations without any conditions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer A:

Explanation;

Enterprise based definition of investment: The asset-based definition of the investment under the earlier BITs has been replaced by Enterprise based definition under the model BIT. Asset based definition considers every kind of asset – both movable and immovable including the IPRs as investment and gives protection under treaties. Moving away from an asset-based approach to an enterprise-based approach aims at narrowing the scope of investments to be protected and thus seeks to reduce the number of BIT claims that can be brought against India.

- Exclusion of MFN treatment: In recent years, some foreign investors have sued India arguing that they have to get the same beneficial treatment given to companies from other countries. Accordingly, India has dropped MFN Clause from the Model BIT.

- Conditions for initiating arbitrations at international arbitrations: The Model BIT stipulate that the aggrieved investor should use all local remedies as well as negotiations and consultations before initiating arbitrations against the host State. Investor can use outside remedies only five years after resorting to all domestic arrangements.

- Corporate Social Responsibility: The Model BIT mandates foreign investors to voluntarily adopt internationally recognized standards of corporate social responsibility.

POLITY

Question 1:

Consider the following judgments given by the judiciary to curb the impact of crime in the Indian Politics.

1. In Union of India (UoI) vs ADR 2002, SC directed that all the contesting candidates shall disclose their assets and liabilities, criminal conviction, if any, and pending cases in court of law at the time of filling the nomination papers.
2. The SC introduced None of The Above (NOTA) option in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs Union of India, 2014 to put moral pressure on political parties to put up clean candidates.
3. In Public interest foundation case 2018, Court directed disclosure of criminal cases pending against the candidate by himself/herself through EC and his/her political party. Moreover, the criminal antecedent of candidates must be widely publicized through different media including the websites of concerned political parties.

Which of these statements is correct?



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Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, Supreme Court made it mandatory for political parties to publish, including on official social media pages, details of cases against their candidates and the reasons for selecting them over others.

Legal Provisions

- Article 102(1) and 191(1) disqualifies an MP and an MLA respectively on certain grounds.
- Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, bans convicted politicians. But those facing trial, no matter how serious the charges, are free to contest elections.

Previous notable SC judgements

- SC in 1997 directed all High Courts not to suspend the conviction of a person on appeal if he was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by a trial court under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.
- In Union of India (UoI) vs ADR 2002, SC directed that all the contesting candidates shall disclose their assets and liabilities, criminal conviction, if any, and pending cases in court of law at the time of filling the nomination papers.
- In Lily Thomas case (2013), SC ruled that a sitting MP and MLA convicted of a jail term of two years or more would lose their seat in the legislature immediately.
- Introduction of None of The Above (NOTA) option in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs Union of India, 2014 to put moral pressure on political parties to put up clean candidates.
- In Public Interest Foundation Vs UoI 2014, SC directed the trial courts to complete the trial of cases involving the legislators within one year.
- In Lok Prahari Vs UOI case 2018, SC made mandatory the disclosure of the source of income of political candidates as well as their dependants and associates would be mandatory.
- Also, disclosure of information regarding contracts with the appropriate government either by the candidate or his/her spouse and dependants was also held to be disclosed mandatorily.
 - In Public interest foundation case 2018, Court directed disclosure of criminal cases pending against the candidate by himself/herself through EC and his/her political party. Moreover, the criminal antecedent of candidates must be widely publicized through different media including the websites of concerned political parties.



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Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the concept of 'Anticipatory bail' as applied in the Indian judicial system.

1. An anticipatory bail cannot be limited to a fixed time period and can continue till the end of the trial.
2. Anticipatory bail application could be moved by a person only after FIR has been filed.
3. As opposed to ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, in anticipatory bail, a person is directed to be released on bail even before arrest made.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

A constitution bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that an anticipatory bail cannot be limited to a fixed time period and can continue till the end of the trial.

What is Anticipatory Bail?

- The provision of anticipatory bail under Section 438 was introduced when CrPC was amended in 1973. Section 438 is a procedural provision concerned with personal liberty of each individual, who is entitled to the benefit of the presumption of innocence.
- As opposed to ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, in anticipatory bail, a person is directed to be released on bail even before arrest made.

Who can apply?

- 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, lays down the law on anticipatory bail.
- Sub-section (1) of the provision reads: "When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a non-bailable offence, he may apply to the High Court or the Court of Session for a direction under this section; and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail."
- The provision empowers only the Sessions Court and High Court to grant anticipatory bail.

Question 3:

Which of the following statements is not true about the Bodo language, which was a major point of contention in the recently signed Bodo Accord?



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Options:

- A. The language was listed in the Eighth Schedule in 1985.
- B. It was the first tribal language to be included in the Eight Schedule.
- C. In Assam, it has enjoyed the status of official associate language in undivided Goalpara district since 1986.
- D. The 2020 Accord makes Bodo the associate official language throughout Assam.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bodo language is one of the key thrust areas in the Bodo Accord which was signed recently.

Important information about the Bodo language:

- Estimated to have 1.5 million speakers (Census 2011), Bodo is listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- It is spoken in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and West Bengal.
- While Bodo is officially written in the Devanagiri script, the language has a history of having been written in at least three different scripts — until in 1974, the Government recognised Devanagari as its official script. In the first decade of the 20th century, Bodos started writing in the Assamese/Bangla script. Then they also used Roman Script.
- In the pre-13th century era, it was called Deodhai.

Promises in the accord regarding Bodo language:

- It was only in 2003, under the then Bodo Accord, that the language was listed in the Eighth Schedule. And it was the first tribal language to be included in the Eight Schedule.
- In Assam, it has enjoyed the status of official associate language in undivided Goalpara district since 1986.
- Now the 2020 Accord makes Bodo the associate official language throughout Assam.
- The new Accord also promises to establish a separate directorate for Bodo medium schools, provincialise schools and colleges in the BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District) and establish a Cultural Complex-cum-Centre of Excellence in Kokrajhar for protection and promotion of the language.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements about the Finance Commission.

1. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.
2. The First Finance Commission was constituted vide Presidential Order under the chairmanship of Shri K.C. Neogy on 6th April, 1952.
3. The commission also offers measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, along with an Action Taken Report, has been tabled in Parliament. The Commission, headed by N K Singh, had submitted its Report to the President in December 2019.

What is the Finance Commission?

The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.

Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

What are the functions of the Finance Commission?

It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to:

- the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;
- the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
- the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;
- any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.
- The Commission determines its procedure and have such powers in the performance of their functions as Parliament may by law confer on them.

When was the first Commission Constituted and how many Commissions have been Constituted so far?

- The First Finance Commission was constituted vide Presidential Order dated 22.11.1951 under the chairmanship of Shri K.C. Neogy on 6th April, 1952. Fifteenth Finance Commissions have been Constituted so far at intervals of every five years.
- Why is there a need for a Finance Commission?
- The Indian federal system allows for the division of power and responsibilities between the centre and states. Correspondingly, the taxation powers are also broadly divided between the centre and states. State legislatures may devolve some of their taxation powers to local bodies.

Question 5:

Which of the following nations recently rejoined the Commonwealth more than three years after it quit the group following Human Rights criticism?

Options:



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- A. South Africa
- B. Maldives
- C. Cameroon
- D. Ghana

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth, more than three years after the Indian Ocean island nation quit amid mounting criticism of its human rights.

In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth. Maldives has been formally reinstated into the Commonwealth as its 54th member state.

About Commonwealth of Nations:

The Commonwealth of Nations, at one time known as British Commonwealth, is an organisation of fifty three states that were principally below the colonial rule of British Government. They came into existence with the proclamation of sovereignty of the state from the colonial rule of British Empire and were later given self-governance.

It proclaims that the Commonwealth nations are "free and equal." The insignia of this Commonwealth Association is Queen Elizabeth II who is considered the Supreme of the Commonwealth nations. The member states of the commonwealth are not legally liable or bound to each other. They are rather united by language, history, culture, likeness of the democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Former British mandates that did not become members of the Commonwealth are Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq, British Palestine, Sudan, British Somaliland, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about East Asia Summit.

1. It is an initiative of ASEAN and revolves around the principles of ASEAN.
2. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.
3. EAS represent nearly 50 per cent of the world's population and over 20 per cent of global trade

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:



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India hosted an East Asia Summit conference in Chennai with a focus on maritime security cooperation and tackling challenges in the maritime domain. It was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the governments of Australia and Indonesia.

About East Asia Summit:

- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.
- It is a forum held annually by leaders of 18 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian regions.
- EAS meetings are held after annual ASEAN leaders' meetings.
- The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005.
- There are six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity. India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.

Question 2:

Which of the following is not true about the 'Blue Dot' Network?

Options:

- A. Blue Dot Network was launched in 2019 on the side-lines of the 35th ASEAN Summit by the US, Australia and Germany.
- B. This is seen as alternative to 'predatory lending' and debt trap diplomacy of China under Belt and Road initiative (BRI), by facilitating foreign investment in projects that come under this network
- C. Initiative will evaluate projects on various parameters, in line with 'G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment' including level of public consultation, transparency in funding, debt traps and basic environment norms
- D. Blue Dot doesn't involve direct money supply as it relies on private investments based on infrastructure's standards

Answer: A

Explanation:

Blue Dot Network

- Blue Dot Network was launched in 2019 on the side-lines of the 35th ASEAN Summit by the US, Australia and Japan.
- It is a joint project of the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation, in partnership with Australia and Japan.
- Initiative will evaluate projects on various parameters, in line with 'G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment' including level of public consultation, transparency in funding, debt traps and basic environment norms.
- Projects that meet the norms will get a "blue dot" certification, which will enable them to attract private funding and not have to depend on state-funding alone.
- This is seen as alternative to 'predatory lending' and debt trap diplomacy of China under Belt and Road initiative (BRI), by facilitating foreign investment in projects that come under this network.

Differences as compared to BRI:

- BRI involves direct money for infrastructural needs. But Blue Dot doesn't involve direct money supply as it relies on private investments based on infrastructure's standards.



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- Blue Dot will require coordination among multiple stakeholders when it comes to grading projects.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about India-US relations as they stand at present.

1. In August 2018, US granted to India the designation of Strategic Trade Authority Tier 1, "providing India with greater supply-chain efficiency by allowing US companies to export a greater range of dual-use and high-technology items to India under streamlined processes."
2. Joint mission of NASA and ISRO- world's first dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite proposed for 2022
3. US has recently removed India from its list of developing countries and will now on consider India as a developed country for the purpose of deciding on trade related practises and duty concessions.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Recent developments in India US relationship

Defense:

- In August 2018, US granted to India the designation of Strategic Trade Authority Tier 1, "providing India with greater supply-chain efficiency by allowing US companies to export a greater range of dual-use and high-technology items to India under streamlined processes." This authorisation is the equivalent of NATO allying with Japan, South Korea and Australia.
- US has emerged as second largest defence supplier to India. Since 2008, India has bought more than \$18 billion worth of US military hardware.
- US supported designation of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist under UN Security Council Resolution 1267, and played role placing of Pakistan on the grey-list of the Financial Action Task Force.

Trade relations:

Trading relations: US is now India's largest trading partner (With, the bilateral trade at USD 87.95 billion in 2018-19). However, a trade deal remains elusive.

Collaboration in science, technology and innovation:

Joint mission of NASA and ISRO- world's first dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite proposed for 2022.

Question 4:



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The Kaladan multimodal transit transport project connects Myanmar to which of the following Indian states?

Options:

- A. Manipur
- B. Mizoram
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Nagaland

Answer: B

Explanation:

India- Myanmar Relations:

- No other country has committed as much in grant-in-aid to Myanmar as India. Recently, under 'India-Myanmar Friendship Project' India has handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses in the Rakhine State for the rehabilitation of refugees after their return.
- Additionally, four major connectivity projects — Kaladan Multi-Modal corridor, repair of 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa road and the construction of the 120-km Kalewa-Yargyi corridor, both of which are part of the India Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway the Rhi-Tiddim road in the Chin state bordering Mizoram. • trade, particularly supply of beans and pulses to India and timber. India's exports to Myanmar include sugar, pharmaceuticals etc. Important

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about the BBIN agreement.

1. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal have signed a sub-regional Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) in June 2015 for regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic between the four BBIN countries.
2. India, Nepal and Bangladesh have ratified the Agreement while Bhutan failed to get its Parliament's nod to ratify the same.
3. On November 1, 2015, a cargo vehicle made the first successful trial run from Kolkata to Agartala via Bangladesh that reduced the distance by over a thousand kilometres.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:



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A meeting of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) on the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) was held recently.

- The meeting was held to discuss the passenger and cargo Protocols that are to give effect to the Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.
- This is the first meeting of the group since their meeting in Bengaluru in January 2018, when the two Protocols were last discussed.
- Bhutan participated in observer capacity.
- The delegations discussed a draft enabling MOU (memorandum of understanding) among Bangladesh, India and Nepal for implementing the BBIN MVA, without obligation to Bhutan.
- On November 1, 2015, a cargo vehicle made the first successful trial run from Kolkata to Agartala via Bangladesh that reduced the distance by over a thousand kilometres.

PT - HISTORY

QUESTION 1. Mahatma Gandhi undertook fast unto death in 1932, mainly because:

- (a) Round Table Conference failed to satisfy Indian political aspirations
- (b) Congress and Muslim League had differences of opinion
- (c) Ramsay Macdonald announced the Communal Award.
- (d) The Civil Disobedience Movement had undergone berserk and violent.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- Gandhi saw the Communal Award as an attack on Indian unity and nationalism. He thought it was harmful to both Hinduism and to the depressed classes since it provided no answer to the socially degraded position of the depressed classes.
- Once the depressed classes were treated as a separate political entity, he argued, the question of abolishing untouchability would get undermined, while separate electorates would ensure that the untouchables remained untouchables in perpetuity. He said that what was required was not protection of the so-called interests of the depressed classes but root and branch eradication of untouchability.



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- Gandhi demanded that the depressed classes be elected through joint and if possible a wider electorate through universal franchise, while expressing no objection to the demand for a larger number of reserved seats.
- And to press for his demands, he went on an indefinite fast on September 20, 1932. Now leaders of various persuasions, including B.R. Ambedkar, M.C. Rajah and Madan Mohan Malaviya got together to hammer out a compromise contained in the Poona Pact.
- **Poona Pact:** Signed by B.R. Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes in September 1932, the Pact abandoned separate electorates for the depressed classes. But the seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and 18 per cent of the total in the central legislature.
- The Poona Pact was accepted by the Government as an amendment to the Communal Award.

QUESTION 2. With reference to the period of colonial rule in India, “Home Charges” formed an important part of drain of wealth from India. Which of the following funds constituted “Home Charges”?

1. Funds used to support the India Office in London.
2. Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
3. Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Solution (B)



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Explanation:

“Drain of wealth” was mainly consisted of:

(i) Home charges

(ii) Interest and profits on private foreign capital,

(iii) Banking, insurance and shipping charges.

- The fountain head of the drain was the salary of England for ruling over India, called the Home charges.
- Home charges refer to the expenditure incurred in England by the secretary of state on behalf of India.

The Company's remittances to England also formed a major part of the drain. This included,

- **Salaries and pensions paid to the Company's employees in England.**
- **Interest amount on loans raised by the Company in England.**
- **Dividends paid to the Company's stockholders.**

Such remittances by the Company later came to be known as the '**Home Charges**' when the British Parliament took over administrative control of India. Home charges also included,

- Salaries and pensions paid to the British civilian and military personnel posted in India which were remitted by them to England.
- Store purchases made in England by the Secretary of State on behalf of Government of India for the civilian and military departmental needs.

QUESTION 3. With reference to the period of Indian freedom struggle, which of the following was/were recommended by the Nehru report?

1. **Complete Independence for India.**
2. **Joint electorates for reservation of seats for minorities.**
3. **There should be reservation for women in Legislative Councils.**
4. **Provision of fundamental rights for the people of India in the Constitution.**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a.) 1 and 4 only



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(b.) 2 and 4 only

(c.) 1 and 3 only

(d.) 1, 2 and 3

Ans. B.

Explanation:

The Nehru Report had the primary motive of assigning Dominion status to India within the British Commonwealth as a response to Simon Commission.

The major components of the Nehru Report are:

- Bill of Rights
- Assigning Equal rights to men and women as citizens.
- Formation of a federal form of government with residuary powers in the hands of Centre
- Proposal for the creation of Supreme Court.
- No separate electorates for any community. ***It did provide for reservation of minority seats. It provided for reservation for seats for Muslims at the centre and in provinces where they were in a minority*** and not in Bengal and Punjab. Similarly, it provided for reservation for non-Muslims in the NWFP.

QUESTION 4. Consider the following forts and their locations :

1. Fort St. David- Cuddalore.
2. Fort William - Calcutta
3. Fort St. George- Pondicherry.

Select the correct code:

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

Ans. D

Explanation:

- Fort William is a fort in Calcutta, built during the early years of the Bengal Presidency of British India. It sits on the eastern banks of the River Hooghly, the major distributary of the River Ganges.
- Fort St David, now in ruins, was a British fort near the town of Cuddalore, a hundred miles south of Chennai on the Coromandel Coast of India. It is located near silver beach.



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- Fort St George is the first English fortress in India, founded in 1644 at the coastal city of Madras, the modern city of Chennai.

QUESTION 5. What was “Dickie Bird Plan”?

- a. a plan for paramountcy of princely states.
- b. to disband British Indian forces after India's Independence.
- c. a plan for India's independence.
- d. to demarcate the border between India and Pakistan.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- Mountbatten prepared a “**Dickie Bird Plan**” for India's independence. This plan was prepared by a committee of General Sir Hastings Ismay, Sir George Abell and Lord Mountbatten himself.
- **The Plan Balkan** was completed and presented on 15-16 April 1947 by Hastings Ismay to assembly of provincial governors in Delhi. Due to this, this plan was also called “**Ismay Plan**”.
- The main proposal of this plan was to that provinces should become first independent successor states rather than an Indian Union or the two dominions of India & Pakistan.
- As per this plan all the provinces viz. Madras, Bombay, United Provinces of Bengal, Punjab & North West Frontier etc. were proposed to be declared Independent. The states later would decide whether to join constituent assembly or not.
- Nehru rejected the plan right away and told Mountbatten in Shimla that this plan would invite Balkanization of India and would provoke conflict and violence. Consequently, Mountbatten informed England that this plan was cancelled. So, it was also called as **Plan Balkan**.

GEOGRAPHY

26) Recently, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) inked a MoU with Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) for the development of agriculture sector. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It aims to further develop SFAC.
- (ii) APEDA and SFAC shall increase the export by linking FPOs to exporters.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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



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Answer c

Explanation :-

APEDA: It stands for Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. APEDA is an apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. It is responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products. It was founded in 1986. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Recently, APEDA inked a MoU with Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium(SFAC) for the development of agriculture sector. The MoU aims to uplift the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and create awareness programs, outreach programs and workshops of various stakeholders.

As per the MoU, both APEDA and SFAC will work together to link the FPOs with the exporters. APEDA will also facilitate certification of organic produce/areas by the Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) assisted or identified by SFAC.

27) Consider the following statements on **Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020** :-

- (i) It amends the Aircraft Act, 1934 so as to fulfill the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- (ii) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will convert into statutory bodies.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d

Explanation :-

Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020: Lok Sabha on 18 March 2020 passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 through a voice vote. The Bill was tabled in the lower house for consideration by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on 4 February 2020 to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934. According to the Civil Aviation Minister, the amendments would fulfill the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The amended Bill also seeks to convert the 3 existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation which are Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into statutory bodies. This would enable the three regulatory bodies in the Civil Aviation sector in India to become more effective, which then would lead to enhancement in the level of safety and security of aircraft operations in the country. Under the Act, the Central government may make rules on several matters that include registration of aircraft, regulating air transport services, and prohibition of flight over any specified area. Each of these 3 bodies will be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the Centre.



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28) The National Vaccination Day is observed on the 16th of March every year. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) On this day first oral polio vaccine was given in 1995 in India.
- (ii) It is also known as the National Immunization Day.
- (iii) India was certified as a polio-free country by WHO in 2014.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d

Explanation :-

National Vaccination Day: The National Vaccination Day is also known as the National Immunization Day. The day is observed on the 16th of March every year. The day is celebrated by the Government of India to make people aware of the importance of vaccination. The first dose of an oral vaccine against polio was given in India on 16 March 1995. Since then India has been observing the Pulse Polio Programme. The prime purpose behind the celebration of National Vaccination Day is to make all people aware of arming against polio and eradicating it completely from the world.

India was certified as a polio-free country along with 11 other countries of the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the 27th of March 2014. These countries were Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The last case of polio patients in India was reported on 13 January 2011.

29) The National Super Computer Mission was launched by the Gol in 2015. It was set up to provide the country with supercomputing infrastructure to meet the increasing computational demands of academia, researchers, MSMEs, and start-ups. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It aims to manufacture supercomputers indigenously in India.
- (ii) Under this Gol has approved to install three more Super Computers.
- (iii) Currently India has top 5 Super Computers that are ranked in the top 500 list of Super Computers in the World.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d



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Explanation :-

NSM: It refers to National Supercomputing Mission. The National Super Computer Mission was launched by the Gol in 2015. It was set up to provide the country with supercomputing infrastructure to meet the increasing computational demands of academia, researchers, MSMEs, and start-ups. The main aim of the mission is to create designs and manufacture supercomputers indigenously in India. Currently India has top 5 Super Computers that are ranked in the top 500 list of Super Computers in the World.

Recently, Gol has approved of three more Super Computers to be installed at IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Hyderabad and JN Centre for Advanced Scientific Research by April 2020. Jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and led by C-DAC and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, the mission supports the government's vision of 'Digital India' and 'Make in India' initiatives.

30) Which Indian state has recently launched ROPAX Ferry Vessel which can carry 200 cars and 1,000 passengers and is also capable of plying even during monsoon :-

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Goa

Answer c

Explanation :-

Maharashtra: Maharashtra is a state in the western peninsular region of India occupying a substantial portion of the Deccan Plateau. It is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Indian states of Karnataka and Goa to the south, Telangana to the southeast and Chhattisgarh to the east, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to the north, and the Indian union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu to the north west. It was formed on 1 May 1960. It was formed by merging the western and south-western parts of the Bombay State, Berar and Vidarbha, and the north-western parts of the Hyderabad State and splitting Saurashtra (in present-day Gujarat) by the States Reorganisation Act. It is famous for its caves and rock-cut architecture as in Ajanta Ellora Caves that is also one of the UNESCO as World Heritage Site. Its capital is Mumbai. The Chief Minister and the Governor of Maharashtra are Uddhav Thackeray and Bhagat Singh Koshiyari respectively.

Recently, the Minister of State (I/C) for Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya launched ROPAX Ferry Vessel and its Terminal at Mandwa in Maharashtra. The vessel was built in Greece and it can carry 200 cars and 1,000 passengers. It is also is capable of plying even during monsoon.

Mumbai Port Trust developed infrastructure for ROPAX service at Ferry wharf while Maharashtra Maritime Board developed infrastructure facilities at Mandwa under the ROPAX project.