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Date: 25th Apr 2020 (Set 7)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):

1. It is under the National Health Mission, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is assisted by Asian Development Bank.

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:

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a disease surveillance scheme under National Health Mission, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

It is assisted by the World Bank.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

1. It is an executive body.
2. NDMA is chaired by the Union Home Minister.



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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: D

Explanation:

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India. The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the World Happiness Report 2020:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
2. India is at 144th place.
3. Finland is the world's happiest nation.

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:

World Happiness Report 2020 is released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations by the UN General Assembly.

It is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.

Finland is the world's happiest nation for the third year running while India is at 144th place.

Question 4:

Carissa kopilii is associated with which of the following?

Options:

- A. an animal species in Western Ghats
- B. an early human species
- C. a new plant species found in Assam
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Carissa kopilii is a new plant species distributed sparsely along the Kopili riverbed in Assam at altitudes ranging from 85-600 metres above sea level.

Kopili River is an interstate river that flows through the states of Meghalaya and Assam and is the largest south bank tributary of the Brahmaputra in Assam



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Question 5:

Consider the following statements about Fishing Cat:

1. It is listed Endangered on IUCN Red List.
2. It is the state animal of West Bengal.

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:

Fishing Cat is listed Vulnerable on IUCN Red List. It is also listed in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix II of CITES. It is the state animal of West Bengal. They are mainly found in the mangrove forests of Sunderbans.

Science & Technology

1 Consider the following statement about Viability Gap Funding –

1. The Natural Gas Pipeline Grid will be developed in the eight states of the north east including Sikkim and the seven sisters- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to the project on January 8, 2020.
3. This is the second such funding approved by the Union Government for a gas pipeline project.



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Which of following statement is are correct.

- a)1only
- b)2 only
- c)1and 3only
- d)All of above is correct

Answer – D

The Government has approved 'Viability Gap Funding' worth Rs 5559 crores to set up a natural gas pipeline grid in the North East. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to the project on January 8, 2020. This is the second such funding approved by the Union Government for a gas pipeline project. Under the project, a capital grant worth Rs 5559 crores will be provided to Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited to build a natural gas pipeline grid covering eight north eastern states. The Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) has been set up as a joint venture company of five CPSEs – ONGC, IOCL, OIL, GAIL and NRL to develop and operate natural gas pipeline grid in the north east. It was set up in 2018.

2. Consider the following statements:

- (1) ISRO will send humanoid Vyommitra in unmanned Gaganyaan spacecraft ahead of human spaceflight.
- (2) Vyommitra is a female humanoid – something that has an appearance resembling a human but is robotic.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

- (a) Only(1)
- (b) Only(2)
- (c) Both(1) and (2)
- (d) None of the above

ANSWER -C

On 22nd January 2020, ISRO introduced a humanoid Vyommitra at a seminar, 'Human Space Flight and Exploration-Present Challenges and Future Trends', that was held in Bengaluru. Vyommitra is a female humanoid – something that has an appearance resembling a human but is robotic and has no legs. ISRO Inertial Systems Unit has developed the humanoid in Thiruvananthapuram. Vyommitra is built for ISRO's first unmanned. Gaganyaan mission. Gaganyaan will undertake two unmanned space flights before the manned mission in which the vyomitra will be used. Vyommitra can monitor module parameters, alert astronauts and perform life support operations. Vyommitra can simulate the exact human functions in space; it will check whether the systems are right. Vyommitra is capable of switching panel operations, performing Environment Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS) functions, conversations with the astronauts, recognizing them and solving their queries. Vyommitra will be very useful to simulate, as if a human is flying. Vyommitra can understand and speak English and Hindi both languages.

3. World Health Organization (WHO) recently admitted that Truant MTB is a high accuracy TB diagnostic test. This TB diagnosis test has been developed by-

- (a) UK



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- (b) India
- (c) USA
- (d) Italy

Answer- b

On 14 January, 2020; the World Health Organization (WHO) in its Rapid Communication had mentioned that TB diagnostic test developed in India has high accuracy. This new TB diagnostic test is India-made Truant MTB, a molecular diagnostic test for pulmonary and extra pulmonary TB and rifampicin-resistant TB. It will be used as an initial test thus replacing sputum smear microscopy. Truenat is developed by the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics.

4. Consider the following statement about First Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre (HSFIC)-

1. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) proposed 2,700 crores of infrastructure plans to construct its first Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre (HSFIC)
2. This astronaut hub will be established Tamil Nadu
- 3.. Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) will become functional 2022.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

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

Answer-d

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) proposed 2,700 crores of infrastructure plans to construct its first Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre (HSFIC). This astronaut hub will be established Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka. It is expected that this center will start functioning in the next three years. Various activities related to the training of astronauts to manned missions will be conducted here. According to the ISRO's proposal, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) will become functional 2022. At present, the Human Spaceflight Program is being carried out in various centers like U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. However, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine of the Air Force (IAMAF) is working for astronauts' selection and training.

5. Consider the following statement about SRSS-1-

1. China has launched Sudan's first-ever satellite, SRSS-1, along with its satellites.
2. SRSS-1 satellite was launched by India .
3. The satellite is a small remote-sensing satellite that aims to give boost to military and space technology research.

Which of the following statement (s) is/are true?

- (a) Only(1)
- (b) Only(2)
- (c) (1) and (3)only



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(d) 1 and 2 only

ANSWER- C

On November 03, 2019, China has launched Sudan's first-ever satellite, SRSS-1, along with its satellites. The satellite is a small remote-sensing satellite that aims to give boost to Sudan's military and space technology research. SRSS-1 will generate a comprehensive, cost effective and reliable data base on the topographic mapping, natural resources for developmental planning, exploration of natural resources, environmental monitoring, agricultural monitoring and yield estimation and beside public security (intelligence) and defense applications.

ECONOMY

Question 1:

Consider the following statements regarding an efficient agricultural marketing system,

1. it provides better price for the farmers
 2. it provides signals to the farmers
 3. it reduce the price variations
- Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of these

Answer: C

Explanation:

An efficient agricultural marketing system is extremely critical for the growth of agriculture sector in a country on account of number of reasons.

- Firstly, an efficient and well-connected agricultural marketing enables the farmers to buy agricultural inputs such as fertilisers seeds etc. at affordable prices. This becomes quite important since the agricultural input costs have been increasing over a period of time.
- Secondly, it provides signals to the farmers with respect to planning for sowing of crops. By making use of market signals, the farmers would be able to grow those crops which are in high demand and get remunerative prices. A well-connected and an efficient market would also be able to address the food inflation since it would be able to match the supply with the demand.
- Thirdly, an integrated domestic marketing system would considerably reduce the price variations in the agricultural commodities across India. This would enable the farmers to sell their produce anywhere in India and get best prices.
- Fourthly, a High level Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Agriculture has estimated that 25 to 30 % of fruit and vegetables and 8 to 10 % of food grains are wasted annually due to lack of post-harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities, etc. Thus, an efficient marketing infrastructure would enable the farmers to reduce their post-harvest losses and improve their incomes.

Question 2:



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Recently with respect to Indian economy stagflation was in news, what is the correct meaning of Stagflation,

1. Opposite to inflation
2. Combination of inflation and reflation

Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. both 1 and 2
- D. None of these

Answer: D.

Explanation:

Stagflation is a combination of two economic terms "Stagnation" and "Inflation". It implies an economic scenario which denotes simultaneous existence of low GDP growth rates, high rate of inflation and high rate of unemployment within an economy.

Question 3:

The Finance minister has recently launched common online platform named eBkay, to which one of the following sectors of economy it is related,

Options:

- A. Banks
- B. PSUs
- C. NBFCs
- D. None of the above

Answer A:

Explanation:

The Finance minister has recently launched common online platform named eBkay to auction the assets attached by Public sector Banks. The e-auction platform would be linked to Indian Banks Auctions Mortgaged Properties Information (IBAPI) portal and aims to bring in transparency in the sale of properties attached by public sector Banks.

INDIAN BANKS AUCTIONS MORTGAGED PROPERTIES INFORMATION (IBAPI)- It is an initiative of Indian Banks Association (IBA) under the overarching policy of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. It provides a common platform to display details of mortgaged properties to be auctioned online by Banks.

Question 4:

With respect to PM VAYA VANDANA YOJANA (PMVVY), consider the following statements,

1. Maximum age limit to get benefited is 80 years
2. No minimum age limit is fixed
3. Policy term period is 20 years

Which of these statements is/are correct?

Options:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only



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- C. both 1 and 2
D. None of these

Answer D:

Explanation:

PMVVY aims to provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme enables old age income security for senior citizens through provision of assured pension/return linked to the subscription amount. The scheme is operated by Life Insurance Corporation.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- Minimum Entry Age: 60 years (completed)
- Maximum Entry Age: No limit
- Policy Term: 10 years
- The scheme can be purchased by payment of a lump sum Purchase Price. Minimum purchase price under the scheme is Rs.1,50,000/- for a minimum pension of Rs.1,000/- per month and the maximum purchase price is Rs.7,50,000/- for a maximum pension of Rs.5,000/- per month.

Question 5:

Which one of the following scheme is not the initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

- A. Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP)
B. Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJY):
C. UJALA SCHEME
D. Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA):

Answer D:

Explanation:

Initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

- UJALA SCHEME: UNNAT JYOTI BY AFFORDABLE LEDS FOR ALL: It involves distribution of the energy efficient LED bulbs to the consumers.
- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP): Under the programme, EESL replaces the conventional streetlights with LEDs at its own costs.
- Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY): To illuminate dark regions through establishment of solar streetlights.

INITIATIVES OF THE BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BEE)

- Standards and Labelling: Provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential products such as Room Air Conditioners, Fluorescent Tube Lights, Frost Free Refrigerators etc.
- Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC): ECBC sets minimum energy standards for new commercial buildings having a connected load of 100kW or contract demand of 120 KVA and above.
- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA): Rating tool that helps people assesses the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks of accepted energy and environmental principles.

POLITY

Question 1:



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Consider the following statements about 'gram Nyayalayas'.

1. The 12th Five year plan estimated establishment of 2,500 Gram Nyayalayas in the country.
2. Gram Nyayalayas or village courts are established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India.
3. The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class.
4. Such Nyayadhikari are to be appointed by the Chairperson of the respective Panchayats in consultation with the respective High Court.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has directed the states, which are yet to come out with notifications for establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas', to do so within four weeks, and asked the high courts to expedite the process of consultation with state governments on this issue.

Issues

So far only 11 states have taken steps to notify Gram Nyayalayas. Several states have issued notifications for establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas' but all of them were not functioning except in Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Only 208 'Gram Nyayalayas' are functioning in the country as against 2,500 estimated to be required by the 12th five-year plan.

Gram Nyayalayas:

- Gram Nyayalayas or village courts are established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India.
- The Act came into force from 2 October 2009.
Composition:
- The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy same salary and benefits of a Judicial Magistrate of First Class. Such Nyayadhikari are to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court.

Question 2:



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Which of the following is not true regarding the recommendations given by the 15th Finance Commission?

Options:

- A. The Commission has reduced the vertical devolution — the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states — from 42% to 41%.
- B. Shares of the southern states, except Tamil Nadu, have fallen — with Karnataka losing the most.
- C. In order to reward population control efforts by states, the Commission developed a criterion for demographic effort — which is essentially the ratio of the state's population in 1971 to its fertility rate in 2011 — with a weight of 12.5%.
- D. Shares of states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, along with Tamil Nadu, all of which have fertility rates below the replacement level, have increased slightly.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, along with an Action Taken Report, was recently tabled in Parliament.

Division of revenue

- FC has considered the 2011 population along with forest cover, tax effort, area of the state, and “demographic performance” to arrive at the states’ share in the divisible pool of taxes.
- In order to reward population control efforts by states, the Commission developed a criterion for demographic effort — which is essentially the ratio of the state's population in 1971 to its fertility rate in 2011 — with a weight of 12.5%.
- The total area of states, area under forest cover, and “income distance” were also used by the FC to arrive at the tax-sharing formula.

Key recommendations:

- The Commission has reduced the vertical devolution — the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states — from 42% to 41%.
- The Commission has said that it intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defence expenditure.
- State- wise distribution:
- Shares of the southern states, except Tamil Nadu, have fallen — with Karnataka losing the most.
- Shares of states like Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, along with Tamil Nadu, all of which have fertility rates below the replacement level, have increased slightly.
- On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and West Bengal’s shares have fallen, even though their fertility rates are also low.
- Incidentally, Karnataka, the biggest loser in this exercise, also had the highest tax-GSDP ratio in 2017-18, as per an RBI report on state finances.



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Question 3:

Consider the following statements regarding the prisons and judicial system in the country.

1. 'Prisons/persons detained therein' is a subject in the concurrent list of the seventh schedule.
2. The average suicide rate in prisons is over 50% more than in normal conditions.
3. The Supreme court had appointed the Justice Roy Committee to examine the various problems plaguing prisons, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The court had in September 2018 appointed the Justice Roy Committee to examine the various problems plaguing prisons, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.
- The decision was in reaction to a letter written by former Chief Justice of India R.C. Lahoti highlighting the overcrowding of prisons, unnatural deaths of prisoners, gross inadequacy of staff and the lack of trained staff.

Need for reforms:

- NHRC figures show that prisoners cut off from family and friends had a 50% more chance of committing suicide than those outside. The average suicide rate in prisons is over 50% more than in normal conditions.
- Indian prisons face three long-standing structural constraints: overcrowding, understaffing and underfunding. The inevitable outcome is sub-human living conditions, poor hygiene, and violent clashes between the inmates and jail authorities.
- In the absence of adequate prison staff, overcrowding of prisons leads to rampant violence and other criminal activities inside the jails.

Fact

'Prisons/persons detained therein' is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Question 4:



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Consider the following statements with regards to the Motion of Thanks in response to the address of the President in the Parliament.

1. The motion of thanks can be amended if the members of the parliament wish.
2. A failure to get motion of thanks passed amounts to defeat of government and leads to collapse of government.
3. The name of the President cannot be brought in during the debate on the Motion of Thanks.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The President makes an address to a joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, which is prepared by the government and lists its achievements. It is essentially a statement of the legislative and policy achievements of the government during the preceding year and gives a broad indication of the agenda for the year ahead.
- The address is followed by a motion of thanks moved in each House by ruling party MPs. During the session, political parties discuss the motion of thanks also suggesting amendments.
- Amendments to the "Motion of Thanks":
- Notices of amendments to Motion of Thanks on the President's Address can be tabled after the President has delivered his Address. Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters, in the opinion of the member, the Address has failed to mention.
- Amendments can be moved to the Motion of Thanks in such form as may be considered appropriate by the Speaker.
- The only limitations are that members cannot refer to matters which are not the direct responsibility of the Central Government and that the name of the President cannot be brought in during the debate since the Government and not the President is responsible for the contents of the Address.
- Article 86(1) of the Constitution provides that the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members.
- Article 87 provides for the special address by the President. Clause (1) of that article provides that at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. No other business is transacted till the President has addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together.

Question 5:



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Supreme Court's landmark judgment in the Ramamurthy v. State of Karnataka is related to which of the following issues?

Options:

- A. Prison reforms
- B. Human Rights issues
- C. Domestic violence
- D. Religious freedom

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Supreme Court, in its landmark decision in Ramamurthy v. State of Karnataka(1996) had identified various problems which need immediate attention for implementing prison reforms.

Rampant Overcrowding: "Prison Statistics India", brought out by National Crime Records Bureau stated that in 2015, there were nearly 4.2 lakh inmates in 1,401 facilities against the sanctioned strength of 3.83 lakh, with an average occupancy rate of 114% in most.

Due to overcrowding the segregation of serious criminals and minor offenders has turned out to be difficult, which can, in turn, cause bad influence over minor offenders. Overcrowding results in restlessness, tension, inefficiency and general breakdown in the normal administration.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Question 1:

Bhutan has recently imposed a 'Sustainable Development Fee' on tourists from India and which other two following nations?

Options:

- E. Bangladesh & Pakistan
- F. Pakistan & Nepal
- G. Myanmar & Nepal
- H. Bangladesh & Maldives

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Bhutan will now impose a "sustainable development fee" (SDF) on Indian, Bangladeshi and Maldivian tourists.
- The new levy, however, will not be applicable across Bhutan. To promote tourism in the less popular Eastern Bhutan, the SDF will not be levied on tourists travelling to 11 districts in the region.
- The decision has been taken to protect the ecology of the country, amid a spike in visitors from India. So far, tourists from the three countries had been exempt from a levy that other nationals had to pay — \$250 per person per day during the peak season, and \$200 per person per day during the low season. The low season is in the winter from December to February, and during the rains from June to August.



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Question 2:

With reference to the Brexit, consider the following statements.

1. Britain has officially left the European Union (EU) and has become the first country to leave the 25-member bloc.
2. The EU also allows free movement of people, to live and work in whichever country they choose.
3. The UK stopped being a member of the European Union (EU) after 23:00 GMT on 31 January 2020.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Britain has officially left the European Union (EU) and has become the first country to leave the 28-member bloc. The UK stopped being a member of the European Union (EU) after 23:00 GMT on 31 January 2020.

What is the European Union?

- The EU is an economic and political union involving 28 European countries. It allows free trade, which means goods can move between member countries without any checks or extra charges. The EU also allows free movement of people, to live and work in whichever country they choose.
- The UK joined in 1973 (when it was known as the European Economic Community) and it will be the first member state to withdraw.

What happens after Brexit day?

- After the UK formally leaves the EU, there is still a lot to talk about and months of negotiation will follow.
- While the UK has agreed the terms of its EU departure, both sides still need to decide what their future relationship will look like.
- During the 11-month transition period, the UK will continue to follow all of the EU's rules and its trading relationship will remain the same.

What needs to be agreed?

The transition period is meant to give both sides some breathing space while a new free trade agreement is negotiated.



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This is needed because the UK will leave the single market and customs union at the end of the transition. A free trade agreement allow goods to move around the EU without checks or extra charges.

If a new one cannot be agreed in time, then the UK faces the prospect of having to trade with no deal in place. That would mean tariffs (taxes) on UK goods travelling to the EU and other trade barriers.

Aside from trade, many other aspects of the future UK-EU relationship will also need to be decided. For example:

- Law enforcement, data sharing and security.
- Aviation standards and safety.
- Access to fishing waters.
- Supplies of electricity and gas.
- Licensing and regulation of medicines.

Question 3:

Which of the following groups have both India and Myanmar as members?

1. SAARC
2. BIMSTEC
3. Mekong Ganga

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, India and Myanmar signed number of agreements with a focus on socio-economic development of Myanmar during the State Visit of the President of Myanmar to India. Why Myanmar Should Matter to India?

Geostrategic importance to India: India shares a long land border of over 1600 Km with Myanmar as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four north-eastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram share boundary with Myanmar.

Thus, it is geopolitically significant to India as it sits at the intersection of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and "Act East" policy.

Sub regional economic cooperation:

It is the only ASEAN country adjoining India and, therefore, seen as a gateway to South-East Asia and a key component of South and South-East Asian regional cooperation.

Moreover, Myanmar is an important member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), as well as Mekong Ganga Cooperation to impart significance in the context of our "Act East" policy.



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Question 4:

Which of the following is not true about the G20 grouping?

Options:

- A. Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency.
- B. The theme for the recently held G20 summit was "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All".
- C. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union along with representatives of the Asian Bank and the World Bank.
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

G20 meeting was held recently in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia).
Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency.
Theme: "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All".

What is G20?

An informal group of 19 countries and the European Union along with representatives of the IMF and the World Bank.

Represents about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

Genesis: Amid 2008 Financial Crisis the world saw the need for a new consensus-building at the highest political level. It was decided that the G20 leaders would begin meeting once annually.

Members:

The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

Question 5:

'Artemis program', recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following agencies?

Options:



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- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C. ESA
- D. SpaceX

Answer: A

Explanation:

United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that it will begin to accept applications for astronauts under its Artemis programme from March 2 to March 31, 2020.

Eligibility:

The space agency has listed several requirements in order to qualify for training under the Artemis programme: one must be a US citizen and have a master's degree in a STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) field from an accredited institution. Candidates must also have completed at least 1,000 hours of pilot-in-command time in jet aircrafts or have two years of related experience. Another mandatory requirement is to pass NASA's long-duration spaceflight physical test.

What is Artemis?

Artemis– Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon's Interaction with the Sun. It is NASA's next mission to the Moon.

PT - HISTORY

QUESTION.1 The decisive Battle of Wandiwash was fought on 22 January 1760 between the English and the French forces. Where is Wandiwash located?

- a. Karnataka.
- b. Pondicherry.
- c. Kerela.
- d. Tamil Nadu.

Ans. D.

Explanation:

- Vandavasi or Wandiwash is a Town and municipality in the Tiruvannamalai district of the Indian state of **Tamil Nadu**. As of 2011, the town had a population of 74,320.
- Vandavasi was the site of a decisive battle in the 18th century Carnatic Wars between France and the British Empire for control over south Asia. The English General Eyre Coote defeated Lally- the French General.

Question 2. Who made this statement “ *Our system acts very much like a sponge, drawing up all the good things from the banks of the Ganges, and squeezing them down on the banks of the Thames*”?

- a. Lord Canning.
- b. John Sullivan.



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- c. Aitchinson.
- d. Lord Ellenborough.

Ans. B.

Explanation:

John Sullivan, President of the Board of Revenue, Madras made the above remark. It justifies Drain of Wealth Theory of Indian Nationalists.

Pg.No. 73 NCERT- Class-XII by Bipan Chandra.

Question. 3. 'Al- Hilal' during India' freedom struggle was-

- a. A newspaper.
- b. A secret society.
- c. A political party in the NWFP.
- d. A mouthpiece of Muslim League.

Ans. A.

Explanation:

- Al – Hilal was a weekly Urdu language newspaper established by the Indian leader **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.
- It was used as a medium for criticism of the British Raj in India.
- The first issue came out on 13 July 1912.
- The newspaper also espoused the cause of the Indian independence movement and exhorted Indian Muslims to join the movement.
- The newspaper was shut down under the Press Act of 1914.
- Al-Hilal (The Crescent), published in Calcutta, ushered in a new chapter in Urdu journalism and immediately appealed to Muslims in the city to join freedom struggle.

Question 4. **Gandhi ji founded Satyagraha Sabha against –**

- a. Ahmedabad Mill Strike.
- b. Kheda Satyagraha.
- c. Champaran Satyagraha.
- d. Rowlatt Act.

Ans. D.

Explanation:

- *M. K Gandhi* started campaign against Rowlatt bill and set up Satyagraha Sabha 24th February AD 1919 at Bombay.
- After the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 1919 the Anti-Rowlatt Satyagrah lost momentum.
- Moreover, the violence in Punjab, Gujarat and Bengal deeply hurt Gandhi. Hence, M.K Gandhi call off the movement.

Question 5. Who was the author of an autobiography "*The Indian Struggle*"?

- a. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- b. Jay Prakash Narayan.
- c. Subhas C. Bose.



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d. Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel.

ANS. C.

Explanation:

- The Indian Struggle, 1920–1942 is a two-part book by the Indian nationalist leader Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- It covers the 1920–1942 history of the Indian independence movement to end British imperial rule over India.
- Banned in India by the British colonial government, The Indian Struggle was published in the country only in 1948 after India became independent.
- The book analyses a period of the Indian independence struggle from the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movements of the early 1920s to the Quit India and Azad Hind movements of the early 1940s.

GEOGRAPHY

31) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is a national-level apex organization which functions under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) TRIFED has launched “Tech for Tribal” initiative to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- (ii) TRIFED may utilize the data from Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) but shall not be linked with this.
- (iii) TRIFED was founded in 2014 to specially focus and develop North East India.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

TRIFED: It refers to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India. TRIFED is a national-level apex organization. It functions under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It was founded in 1987. It works towards marketing development of tribal products and provides marketing support to the products made by tribals through a network of retail outlets. The current Managing Director of TRIFED is Pravir Kumar.

Recently, TRIFED launched “Tech for Tribal” initiative. It was launched on 19th March 2020 by TRIFED along with IIT-Kanpur along with IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar and SRIJAN. This programme is supported by Ministry of MSME. The main objective of the initiative is to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana(PMVDY).



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TRIFED has drawn out a Five Year strategy for 10X impact in Tribal development. This initiative in later stages will be linked to Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK). The main aim of VDVKs is to provide capacity building and skill upgradation.

PMVDY: It refers to Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana. PMVDY is an initiative of the GoI that was launched in 2018 in 27 states. The Scheme aims to strengthen tribal producer companies. TRIFED is the nodal agency implementing the scheme.

32) Consider the following statements on **Project Gaushala** :-

- (i) Project Gaushala is started by the Government for online adoption of cows.
- (ii) NRI's are not allowed to adopt a cow under this project..
- (iii) Private gaushalas cannot be opened on government land.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

Project Gaushala : Cows are considered as very holy in India. She is 'Gau Mata' and is a sign of faith and pride. So for the conservation of cows the 'Project Gaushala' is started by the Government where it offers cows for adoption online. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh has become the latest state to allow people to adopt cows. Government in MP has proposed various options for people wanting to adopt cows. This includes adopting a cow for a minimum of 15 days to the animal's lifetime. Those willing to adopt a cow for a lifetime will have to pay Rs 3 lakh, for a year will have to pay Rs 21,000, for a month will have to pay Rs 2,100 and those willing to adopt for 15 days will have to pay Rs 1,100. They will be able to choose the one nearest to their home and can check on progress. Even NRI's can adopt a cow. This step was taken by the Government as there are nearly 7 lakh abandoned cattle in MP alone where 13 lakh are left on streets by rearers during the day and it is the same case in other states also, therefore Gaushalas manage to house at least 75% of stray cattle. In June the government had also stated that any person or organisations wanting to open gaushalas will be given the right to use government land.

33) Consider the following statements on the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) :-

- (i) Announcement was made that India would raise its target for restoring degraded land from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030.
- (ii) India supported South-South cooperation in addressing issues of climate change.
- (iii) India said to fight water scarcity.



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Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d

Explanation :-

UNCCD COP-14: On Monday 9 September 2019, Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated the High Level Segment (HLS) of UNCCD COP14 in the presence of heads of the UN and other international organizations, leaders of states and ministers from many countries to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) today, at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. As many as 196 countries, 70 environment ministers and over 8,000 delegates from across globe are participating in 12-day conference from September 2 to September 13. Speaking at the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Prime Minister Modi said between 2015 and 2017, India's tree and forest cover increased by 0.8 million hectares. He announced that India would raise its target for restoring degraded land from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030. Modi also said India would be happy to propose initiatives for greater South-South cooperation in addressing issues of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. The prime minister also called upon the leadership of UNCCD to conceive global water action agenda which is central to Land Degradation Neutrality strategy. Degraded lands also addresses the problems of water scarcity. Augmenting water supply, enhancing water recharge, slowing down water run-off and retaining moisture in the soil are all parts of a holistic land and water strategy. India would be happy to help other friendly countries develop land restoration strategies through cost effective satellite technology.

(MoEFCC): It is the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) which undertakes projects that focuses on steps required to save animals from extinction and ensure a healthy environment endangered species. Elephant project, Rhino project, Tiger project and other variants of this kind are in action to protect and preserve animal lives. There are 771 protected areas whose land composition cannot be changed, which is boosting animal population. Three Animal Species in India Extinct Due To Desertification: According to some researchers three animal species namely Indian Cheetah, pink-headed duck and Great Indian Bustard have become extinct due to desertification in India. The study by researchers was put forth at 14th meeting of Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14).

UNCCD COP14: The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida dedicated day 10 to the theme of Drought. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on Wednesday launched a 'drought toolbox' - a kind of knowledge bank that may be used by vulnerable countries, including India to reduce drought risk and be prepared and be able to effectively respond to it. The draught toolbox is a web page that provides the stakeholders easy access to case studies and other resources to support action on drought preparedness with the aim of boosting the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought.

34) Consider the following statements on National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) :

- (i) It aims to provide vaccination to livestock against foot and mouth disease.



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- (ii) It aims to provide vaccination against brucellosis disease.
- (iii) This programme aims to eradicate the diseases by 2025.
- (iv) It shall be jointly funded by union and states.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

NADCP: It is The National Animal Disease Control Programme which aims to provide vaccination to over 500 million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against foot and mouth disease and brucellosis disease among the livestock by 2030. The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) was launched on September 11, 2019 in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh to eradicate the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis in the livestock. The move is aimed at empowering farmers and doubling their income, as promised under the Union Budget. The National Animal Disease Control Programme also aims to provide vaccination to about 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against the Brucellosis disease. The two main objectives of this programme is to controll the diseases by 2025 and to eradicate the diseases by 2030. The programme will be receiving 100 percent funding from the Union Government. The government has earmarked funds worth Rs 12,652 Crores for the programme, for five years till 2024.

35) Which country is connected to India by recently inaugurated the Motihari-Amlekhganj petroleum product pipeline :-

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer c

Explanation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart K P Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the Motihari-Amlekhganj petroleum product pipeline via a video link. The over 60 km-long pipeline is the first-ever cross-border petroleum product pipeline in the South Asia region, according to a video presentation made before the inauguration. As of now, tankers carry petroleum products from India to Nepal as part of an arrangement which is in place since 1973. This India-Nepal energy cooperation project is a symbol of close bilateral relations. It would not only help to enhance the energy security of the region but substantially cut down on transit costs too.