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India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

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Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Project SURE:

1. It was launched by the Union HRD Ministry.
2. SURE aims to ensure quality education in India.

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:

Project SURE was launched by the Union Textiles Ministry.

SURE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution' – a firm commitment from the industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment.

It will be the first holistic effort by the apparel industry towards gradually introducing a broader framework for establishing critical sustainability goals for the industry.

This framework would help the industry reduce its carbon emissions, increase resource efficiency, tackle waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the Raisina Dialogue:

1. The 2020 edition of Raisina Dialogue is being held in Mumbai, India.
2. It is an annual geo-political event organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation.



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Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, global leaders in policy, business, media and civil society are hosted in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.

The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about Biofuture Platform:

1. It aims to accelerate the development and deployment of modern sustainable low carbon alternatives to fossil based solutions in, among others, the transport sector
2. The ultimate purpose of the Biofuture Platform is to help in the global fight against climate change.
3. The idea to set up the platform was first suggested by India at the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: A

Explanation:

The Bio-future Platform aims to accelerate development and scale up deployment of modern sustainable low carbon alternatives to fossil based solutions in transport, chemicals, plastics and other sectors.

The ultimate purpose of the Biofuture Platform is to help in the global fight against climate change, nurturing solutions in low carbon transport and the bio-economy that can aid countries to reach their Nationally Determined Contribution targets (NDCs).

The Bio-future Platform was proposed by the government of Brazil to several leading countries in all five continents.

The initiative aims to bring together a relatively limited but strong group of like-minded countries which are either already leaders in the new advanced bio-economy or interested in its development. 20 countries (including India) are the founding and current Member States.

Question 4:

The Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal for ratification of the Minamata Convention. The 'Minamata Convention' is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of

Options:

- A. Fluoride
- B. Mercury
- C. Lead
- D. Arsenic

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

It will provide flexibility for continued use of mercury-based products and processes involving mercury compounds up to 2025.

The Convention protects the most vulnerable from the harmful effects of mercury and also protects the developmental space of developing countries.



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Question 5:

With reference to India's Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), consider the following statements :

1. India is the first country in the world to develop a Cooling Action Plan.
2. The goal of ICAP is to provide sustainable cooling and thermal comfort for all while securing environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society.

Which of these statements is / are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.

The India Cooling Action seeks to (i) reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38, (ii) reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38, (iii) Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38, (iv) recognize "cooling and related areas" as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme, (v) training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.

Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020-

1. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020
2. • It aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timeline for procurement of defence equipment



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3. The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the Make in India initiative

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

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,&3

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –d

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh today unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 that aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment. Our aim is to make India self-reliant and a global manufacturing hub. The government is constantly striving to formulate policies to empower the private industry including MSMEs in order to develop the eco-system for indigenous defence production. The defence industry of India is a strategically important sector having huge potential for growth. It needs to be the catalyst for India's economic growth and realisation of our global ambitions." The major changes proposed in the new DPP are:

1. Indigenous Content ratio hiked

In view of the experience gained by the domestic industry, the Draft proposes increasing the Indigenous Content (IC) stipulated in various categories of procurement by about 10% to support the 'Make in India' initiative. A simple and realistic methodology has been incorporated for verification of indigenous content for the first time.

2. Use of raw materials, special alloys and software incentivised as use of indigenous raw material is a very important aspect of 'Make in India' and Indian Companies are world leaders in software.

3. Assurance of procurement on a single vendor basis from Aero Engine manufacturing unit and chips from FAB manufacturing units established in the country.

4. New Category Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) has been introduced with minimum 50% indigenous content on cost basis of total contract value. Only the minimum necessary will be bought from abroad while the balance quantities will be manufactured in India. This would be in preference to the 'Buy Global' category as manufacturing will happen in India and jobs will be created in the country.

5. Leasing introduced as a new category Leasing has been introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to existing 'Buy' & 'Make' categories to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments. Leasing is permitted under two categories i.e, Lease



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(Indian) where Lessor is an Indian entity and is the owner of the assets and Lease (Global) where Lessor is a Global entity. This will be useful for military equipment not used in actual warfare like transport fleets, trainers, simulators, etc.

6.A new Chapter is introduced for procurement of software and systems related projects as in such projects, obsolescence is very fast due to rapid changes in technology and flexibility in the procurement process is required to keep up with the technology.

7.A new Chapter is introduced for Post Contract Management to facilitate and provide clear guidelines for issues arising during the contract period as typically Defence contracts last for a long period.

8.Timelines for procurement reduced by reducing the process for accord of Acceptance of Necessity which would be single stage of projects less than Rs.500 crore and in case of repeat orders. Trial methodology and Quality Assurance Plan to be part of RFP.

9.Field Evaluation Trials to be conducted by specialised trial wings and the objective of trials will be to nurture competition rather than elimination for minor deficiencies.

10.A comprehensive Chapter introduced for 'Make' to cover procurement from manufacturers in India including start-ups and innovators and from research projects of DRDO.

The first DPP was promulgated in 2002 and has since been revised a number of times to provide impetus to the growing domestic industry and achieve enhanced self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

2. : Recently Which of the following companies has set up first Covid 19 hospital in India?

- (a) Tata Trusts
- (b) Reliance
- (c) Tech Mahindra
- (d) None of these

Answer –b

Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has announced a slew of measures to fight the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) including setting up India's first dedicated COVID-19 hospital, special quarantine facilities, importing additional test kits and enhancing its production capacities to produce 1,00,000 face-masks per day. This first-of-its-kind-in-India centre is fully funded by Reliance Foundation and includes a negative pressure room that helps in preventing cross contamination and helps control infection," said a company statement adding that all beds are equipped with the required infrastructure, bio-medical



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equipment such as ventilators, pacemakers, dialysis machine and patient monitoring devices. RIL has also built a fully-equipped isolation facility in Lodhivali, Maharashtra and handed it over to the district authorities.

3. Consider the following statement about WHO-

1. WHO established on 7 April 1948.
2. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. The primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system.

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

(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,&3

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –d

WHO began when our Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day. Our primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system. Our main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services. We support countries as they coordinate the efforts of governments and partners – including bi- and multilaterals, funds and foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Working together, we attain health objectives by supporting national health policies and strategies

4. Consider the following statement which is true-

1. Recently NTPC has launched Hydrogen Fuel bus and car project.
2. This is first of its kind project in the country, wherein a complete solution from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle would be developed.
3. It has been undertaken with support of Ministry of science of technology.

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

(a) Only (1) & (3)



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(b) Only 2,&3

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –a

NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer and a central PSU under Ministry of Power, has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide 10 Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and an equal number of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based electric cars in Leh and Delhi. The EoI has been issued by NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Limited. The move to procure Hydrogen Fuel Cell based vehicles is first of its kind project in the country, wherein a complete solution from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle would be developed.

The initiative, which has been undertaken with support of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, will also harness renewable energy for generation of hydrogen and develop its storage and dispensation facilities as part of pilot projects at Leh and Delhi. The move to launch hydrogen powered vehicles aims at decarbonizing mobility segment.

5. Which of the following would turn blue litmus into red in color?

1. Normal rain water
2. Human blood
3. Carbonated soft drinks

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only

(D) 1,2,3

Answer –c

Litmus is a mixture of coloured organic compounds obtained from several species of lichens which are treated with ammonia, potash and lime in presence of air to form litmus. They are of two types i.e., red litmus which turns into blue in contact with basic solution and Blue litmus paper which turned into red color in contact with acidic solution Normal rain water has a pH of around 5.6 i.e. slightly acidic in nature. It would turn blue litmus into red. Hence 1 is correct. Human blood has pH of 7.35-7.45 i.e. Basic in nature, hence it turns red litmus blue.



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Hence 2 is incorrect. Carbonated soft drinks like coke, pepsi have a ph of around 2.6, hence it would turn blue litmus into red. Hence 3 is correct.

Economy

Question 1.

Consider the following statements related to differences between FDI and FPI:

1. The FDI is accompanied by both ownership and management while FPI may be accompanied only by ownership.
2. FDI is mainly long term while the FPI is short term in nature.
3. The FPI is considered to be more volatile than FDI and hence called as Hot Money.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer D:

Question 2.

Consider the following statements related to Cooperative Banks in India:

1. They are registered under the Cooperative Societies Registration Act.
2. The Provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 are not applicable to the Cooperative Banks.

Which of the statements given

above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only



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- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer A:

Question 3.

Which of the following International Reports are published by World Economic Forum?

1. Global Gender Gap Report
2. Future of Jobs Report
3. World Economic Outlook

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 B:

Question 4.

Consider the following statements related to fixing of MGNREGA Wages:

1. The MGNREGA Wages are notified by the State Governments in consultation with the Central Government.
2. The MGNREGA Wages cannot be lower than the Minimum wages for the agricultural labour fixed by State Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only



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

Answer D:

Question 5.

Consider the following statements on Data Localisation:

1. India does not have any rule as of now on Data Localisation.
2. India has accepted all the clauses of e-commerce chapter of RCEP Agreement.

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 C:

Polity

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about recognition of parties as State parties by the Election Commission of India.

1. Secure at least 6% of the valid vote & win at least 2 seats in an Assembly General Election.
2. Secure at least 6% of the valid vote & win at least 1 seats in a Lok Sabha General Election
3. Win at least 3% of the seats or at least 3 seats , whichever is more, in an Assembly General Election
4. Win at least 1 out of every 25 seats from a state in a Lok Sabha General Election
5. Secure at least 8% of the total valid vote in an Assembly or a Lok Sabha General Election.

Which of these is not one of the eligibility criteria for recognition as a state party?

Options:



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- A. 2 & 4 only
- B. 3 & 5 only
- C. 1, 2 & 5 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Jannayak Janta Party of Haryana has been granted the status of a recognised State party by the ECI.

Registration of political parties:

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Commission of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

To be eligible for a 'State Political Party,' the Election Commission has set the following criteria:

- For any political party to be eligible for recognition as a State Party in a state, it has to satisfy any of the five conditions listed below:
- Secure at least 6% of the valid vote & win at least 2 seats in an Assembly General Election.
- Secure at least 6% of the valid vote & win at least 1 seats in a Lok Sabha General Election
- Win at least 3% of the seats or at least 3 seats , whichever is more, in an Assembly General Election
- Win at least 1 out of every 25 seats from a state in a Lok Sabha General Election
- Secure at least 8% of the total valid vote in an Assembly or a Lok Sabha General Election.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements.

1. If a party is recognised as a State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a 'National Party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
2. Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties need only ten proposers for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections.
3. They also get broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
4. Political parties are entitled to nominate "Star Campaigners" during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 "Star campaigners" and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 'Star Campaigners".
5. The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.
6. The candidates of recognized parties get free fuel from the government for their campaigning purposes.

Which of these statements are correct?



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Options:

- A. All of the above
- B. 2, 3, 4 & 6 only
- C. 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- D. 2, 5 & 6 only

Answer: C

Explanation:

Benefits to Political Parties:

- If a party is recognised as a 'State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a 'National Party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
- Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections.
- They also get broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- Political parties are entitled to nominate "Star Campaigners" during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 "Star campaigners" and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 'Star Campaigners'.
- The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

Question 3:

_____ is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that year.

Options:

- A. Supplementary grant
- B. Additional grant
- C. Excess grant
- D. Token Grant

Answer: C

Explanation:

Finance Minister Sitharaman recently tabled the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2019-20 in both the Houses of Parliament saying of the total spend, cash outgo will be about 19,000 crore.

Background:

Supplementary, additional or excess grants and Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are mentioned in the Constitution of India 1949.

Article 115: Supplementary, additional or excess grants.

Article 116: Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants.



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Definition:

Supplementary grants are the additional grant required to meet the required expenditure of the government.

The demand for excess grants:

When grants, authorised by the Parliament, fall short of the required expenditure, an estimate is presented before the Parliament for Supplementary or Additional grants. These grants are presented and passed by the Parliament before the end of the financial year.

When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Railways presents a Demand for Excess Grant. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.

The Public Accounts Committee examines these excesses and gives recommendations to the Parliament. The Demand for Excess Grants is made after the actual expenditure is incurred and is presented to the Parliament after the end of the financial year in which the expenses were made.

Other grants:

- Additional Grant: It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for supplementary or additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year.
- Excess Grant: It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that year. The demands for excess grants are made after the expenditure has actually been incurred and after the financial year to which it relates, has expired.
- Exceptional Grants: It is granted for an exceptional purpose which forms no part of the current service of any financial year
- Token Grant: It is granted when funds to meet proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by re-appropriation, a demand for the grant of a token sum may be submitted to the vote of the House and, if the House assents to the demand, funds may be so made available.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements regarding the Question Hour in the parliament.

1. A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk.
2. An Unstarred Question is one to which no supplementary question can be asked thereon.
3. A member may give a notice of question on a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than 10 days prescribed as the minimum period of notice for asking a question in ordinary course. Such a question is known as 'Short Notice Question'.
4. Questions can't be asked to Private members in the House since they hold no ministry or department.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. 1, 3 & 4 only
- B. 2 & 4 only
- C. 1, 2 & 3 only
- D. All of the above



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Answer: C

Explanation:

As many as 20 starred questions were taken up during Question Hour in one day, a record since 1972. The number of starred questions was fixed at 20 per Question Hour from the fourth session of the fifth Lok Sabha in 1972.

Type of Questions:

- Members have a right to ask questions to elicit information on matters of public importance within the special cognizance of the Ministers concerned. The questions are of four types:
- Starred Questions: A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk. Answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members.
- Unstarred Questions: An Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by Minister. Thus it is not called for oral answer in the House and no supplementary question can be asked thereon.
- Short Notice Questions: A member may give a notice of question on a matter of public importance and of urgent character for oral answer at a notice less than 10 days prescribed as the minimum period of notice for asking a question in ordinary course. Such a question is known as 'Short Notice Question'.
- Questions to Private Members: A Question may also be addressed to a Private Member (Under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha), provided that the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, Resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that Member is responsible. The procedure in regard to such questions is same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a Minister with such variations as the Speaker may consider necessary.

Question 5:

Terms such as 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' are associated with which of the following government schemes?

Options:

- A. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana
- B. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- C. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- D. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana

Answer: A

Explanation:

RBI Deputy Governor MK Jain has expressed concerns over growing non-performing assets (NPAs) in Mudra category. Non-performing assets ratio or bad loans as a percentage of MUDRA loans were at 2.68% in 2018-19, up 16 basis points from 2.52% in the previous year. These loan NPAs were at 2.89% in 2016-17.

Of the 182.60 million MUDRA loans sanctioned, 3.63 million accounts defaulted as on 31 March.



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About the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) scheme:

- The PMMY Scheme was launched in April, 2015. The scheme's objective is to refinance collateral-free loans given by the lenders to small borrowers.
- The scheme, which has a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore, can lend between Rs 50,000 and Rs 10 lakh to small entrepreneurs.
- Banks and MFIs can draw refinance under the MUDRA Scheme after becoming member-lending institutions of MUDRA.
- Mudra Loans are available for non-agricultural activities upto Rs. 10 lakh and activities allied to agriculture such as Dairy, Poultry, Bee Keeping etc, are also covered.
- Mudra's unique features include a Mudra Card which permits access to Working Capital through ATMs and Card Machines.

There are three types of loans under PMMY:

- Shishu (up to Rs.50,000).
- Kishore (from Rs.50,001 to Rs.5 lakh).
- Tarun (from Rs.500,001 to Rs.10,00,000).

International Relations

Question 1:

'Diego Garcia' island, recently in the news, hosts a major military base of which of the following nations?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The United Nations had given UK six months to process the transfer, a move the UK and the US have bitterly resisted.

What's the issue?

- Britain detached the Chagos Islands from Mauritius in 1965, three years before Mauritian independence.
- From 1967 to 1973, some 1,500 Chagos islanders were gradually forced to leave their homes so that the largest island, Diego Garcia, could be leased to the US for a strategic airbase. Today, Diego Garcia hosts a major US military base.
- In 2016, after several judicial challenges, Britain extended Diego Garcia's lease until 2036 and declared that the expelled islanders would not be allowed to go back.
- In 2017, Mauritius successfully petitioned the United Nations to seek an ICJ advisory opinion on the legality of the separation.
- Mauritius claims it was forced to give up the islands – now a British overseas territory – in 1965 in exchange for independence, which it gained in 1968.



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Question 2:

Consider the following statements about *Global Migration Report 2020*.

1. India is the leading recipient of remittances in the world.
2. Remittances received by India have consistently increased between the 2005 and 2020.
3. Highest number of migrants entering India come from Bangladesh.
4. India has the largest number of migrants in the world, is followed by Mexico and China.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. 2 & 3 only
- B. 1, 2 & 4 only
- C. 1 & 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

- India accounts for the highest share with 17.5 million Indians living outside the country.
- India is the leading recipient of remittances. International remittances in 2018 (2020 report) reached \$689 billion, out of which India received \$78.6 billion from the 17.5 million living abroad.
- Remittances received by India have consistently increased between the 2005 and 2020.
- The top migration corridors for Indians are the United Arab Emirates, the US and Saudi Arabia.
- Highest number of migrants entering India come from Bangladesh.

International facts

- As compared to the 2000 Global Migration Report, the number of international migrants has nearly doubled in the 2020 report, from 150 million to 272 million.
- India is followed by Mexico (11.8 million) and China (10.7 million).
- Roughly two-thirds of international migrants are labour migrants.
- The United States was the top remittance-issuer, at \$68 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$44.4 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$36.1 billion).
- The top destinations for international migrants is the US where, as of September 2019, there were 50.7 million international migrants.
- The US is followed by Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and the UK.
- The proportion of female international migrants has only marginally changed between the two reports, from 47.5% in 2000 to 47.9%.
- The share of international migrants who were children has dropped from 16% in 2000 to 13.9%.
- Oceania is the region with the highest proportion of international migrants.
- The UAE is the country with the highest proportion of international migrants.
- More than half of all international migrants (141 million) live in Europe and North America.

Question 3:



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Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

1. It was established by Washington treaty.
2. The NATO came up in the aftermath of the First World War.
3. NATO's headquarters are in Paris, France.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

The U.S. contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) operating budget has been cut down at the cost of an increase in Germany's payments to the alliance. This move comes after repeated criticism of European members of the organisation by the U.S. Previously the US provided some 22% of NATO's direct funding, which covers the cost of maintaining the NATO headquarters, joint security investments and some combined military operations.

It's a largely symbolic move as NATO's direct budget is relatively small, at about \$2.5 billion, and is separate from national defense budgets that NATO recommends should stand at 2% of GDP.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- Established by Washington treaty.
- Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
- Headquarters — Brussels, Belgium.
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations — Mons, Belgium.
- Significance: It constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

Question 4:

'Accelerator lab' of the UNDP, recently launched in India, is an initiative of which of the following nations along with the UNDP?

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. UK & Japan
- B. Australia & UAE
- C. Qatar & Germany
- D. Norway & Sweden

Answer: C

Explanation:



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UNDP launches Accelerator Lab in India, to work on pollution, water issues.

The laboratory that will be housed in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office here has partnered with Indian government's Atal Innovation Mission to achieve the objectives.

What is it?

The Accelerator Lab is an innovative new initiative by the UNDP, Germany and Qatar, to find 21st century solutions to today's complex new challenges.

Four key approaches sit at the core of the Labs' work:

- Building on locally-sourced solutions, finding things that work and expanding on them.
- Rapid testing and iteration to implement what works and go beyond the obvious solutions.
- Combining the best understanding, ideas and expertise to generate collective knowledge.
- Accelerating progress by bringing expertise, creativity and collective intelligence to bear.

Question 5:

Which of the following recently became the first multination organization to declare a climate emergency?

Options:

- A. ASEAN
- B. European Union
- C. Arctic Council
- D. APEC

Answer: B

Explanation:

European Union (EU) has become the first multilateral bloc to declare climate emergency. A resolution in this regard was recently passed. The symbolic move is expected to pressurise countries to act ahead of the United Nations summit on climate change that starts on December 2 in Spain. The resolution will have more symbolic effect than practical impact, and is designed to pressure EU governments to adopt a commitment for all of the EU to reduce emissions to net zero.

Who else have declared climate emergency?

- Similar climate emergency declarations have already been made in several EU member states, including Spain, France and the United Kingdom. Outside Europe only Canada, Argentina and Bangladesh have declared a climate emergency.

What is Climate Emergency?

- There is no single definition of what that means but many local areas say they want to be carbon-neutral by 2030.
- It varies. For example, for UK government it is to reduce carbon emissions by 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050.



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History

Question 1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Charter Act of 1833 conferred all law-making power on the Governor-General-in-Council for India.
2. In 1833 the Law Commission under Macaulay codified the Indian laws such as IPC, Cr.P.C, CPC, etc.
3. Criminal Courts in India under the Britishers applied Muslim Laws.

Select the correct code:

- a. 1 and 2.
- b. 2 only.
- c. 1 and 3.
- d. All the above.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- The Charter Act of 1833 created a strong central authority in British India; it marked the culmination of the process begun in 1773 (Regulating Act). The Governor-General of Bengal became the Governor-General of India, but he continued to be Governor of Bengal.
- The exclusive power of making laws for the Company's territories in India was vested in the Governor-General in Council subject to the overriding authority of Parliament and the veto of the Council of Directors.
- According to the Charter Act, 1833, India's first law [commission](#) in 1834 recommended drafting of the Indian Penal Code, Cr.PC etc.
- Even the Indian Evidence Act came into existence in 1872 under the guidance of Lord Macaulay.
- After the British arrived in India, they initially decided not to interfere much with existing Muslim criminal [laws](#). They implemented changes in a phased manner so as to not upset the locals.

Question 2. In the 1937 election, which two states had non-Congress ministries?

- a. United Provinces and Bengal.
- b. Bengal and Punjab.
- c. North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Bengal.
- d. United Provinces and NWFP.

ANS. B.

Explanation:

- Elections were held in eleven provinces - [Madras](#), [Central Provinces](#), [Bihar](#), [Orissa](#), [United Provinces](#), [Bombay Presidency](#), [Assam](#), [NWFP](#), [Bengal](#), [Punjab](#) and [Sindh](#).
- The final results of the elections were declared in February 1937. The [Indian National Congress](#) emerged in power in seven of the provinces - the exceptions being [Punjab](#) and [Sindh](#). The [All-India Muslim League](#) failed to form the government in any province.



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- After result [Unionist Party](#) under the leadership of [Sikandar Hayat Khan](#) formed the Government in Punjab.
- The Krishak Praja Party won in Bengal.

Question 3. Consider the following statements:

1. Gandhi went to England in September 1931 to attend the First Round Table Conference.
2. The British government accepted the basic nationalist demand for freedom on the basis of the immediate grant of dominion status.

Select the correct code:

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

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- In response to the inadequacy of the [Simon Report](#), the Labour Government, which had come to power under Ramsay MacDonald in 1929, decided to hold a series of Round Table Conferences in London.
- The first Round Table Conference convened from 12 November 1930 to 19 January 1931. Prior to the Conference, [M. K. Gandhi](#) had initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement on behalf of the [Indian National Congress](#). Consequently, since many of the Congress' leaders were in jail, Congress did not participate in the first conference, but representatives from all other Indian parties and a number of Princes did. The outcomes of the first Round Table Conference were minimal: India was to develop into a federation, safeguards regarding defence and finance were agreed and other departments were to be transferred. However, little was done to implement these recommendations and civil disobedience continued in India. The British Government realized that the Indian National Congress needed to be part of deciding the future of constitutional government in India.
- Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, met with [Gandhi](#) to reach a compromise. On 5 March 1931 they agreed the following to pave the way for the Congress' participation in the second Round Table Conference: [Congress](#) would discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement, it would participate in the second Round Table Conference, the Government would withdraw all ordinances issued to curb the Congress, the Government would withdraw all prosecutions relating to offenses not involving violence and the Government would release all persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment for their activities in the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- The second Round Table Conference was held in London from 7 September 1931 to 1 December 1931 with the participation of [Gandhi](#) and the [Indian National Congress](#).
- The British govt. refused to grant the dominion status a demand of the nationalists.

Question 4. In which session of INC, Nehru urged the Congress to accept *socialism* as its goal and to bring itself closer to the peasantry and the working class?

- a. Lucknow Congress.
- b. Lahore Congress.
- c. Delhi Congress.
- d. Allahabad Congress.



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Ans. a. (Pg .No. 253 - NCERT- BIPAN CHANDRA.)

Explanation:

- In 1936, Lucknow session of INC headed by Nehru adopted socialism.
- Socialism meant, JL Nehru told his Lucknow audience, "the ending of pri-vate property, except in a restricted sense, and the replacement of the pre-sent profit system by a higher ideal of co-operative system.

Question 5. : **All India Kisan Sabha was formed in 1936 under the presidentship of –**

- Acharya Narendra Dev.
- Swami Sahajanand Saraswati.
- Jai Prakash Narayan
- Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Ans. b.

Explanation:

- **All India Kisan Sabha** (All India Peasants Union, also known as the *Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha*), was the name of the peasants front of the Communist Party of India, an important peasant movement formed by Sahajanand Saraswati in 1936.
- The Kisan Sabha movement started in Bihar under the leadership of Sahajanand Saraswati who had formed in 1929 the Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha (BPKS) in order to mobilise peasant grievances against the zamindari attacks on their occupancy rights, and thus sparking the farmers' movements in India.