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Date: 29th Apr 2020 (Set 9)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization:

1. It comes under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. It is a regulatory authority with autonomous status.

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:

Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization is a department under the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It is a regulatory authority with autonomous status.

It was established during the British India in the 1890s as the Department of Explosives and expanded to various other activities.

As a statutory authority, PESO is entrusted with the responsibilities under the Explosives Act, Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952, Environment (Protection Act), 1986.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA):

1. The Convention is also known as the "Singapore Convention on Mediation" .
2. The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation.

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:

The Union Cabinet has recently approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA).

The convention is also known as the "Singapore Convention on Mediation" .

The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements, akin to the framework that the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters':

1. It provides for the charitable and humanitarian related acquisition of and transmission of space satellite data to relief organizations in the event of major disasters.
2. It was initiated by NASA.
3. It is a non-binding charter.



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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:

The International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters' is a non-binding charter.

It provides for the charitable and humanitarian related acquisition of and transmission of space satellite data to relief organizations in the event of major disasters.

It was initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999.

It officially came into operation on November 1, 2000 after the Canadian Space Agency signed onto the charter on October 20, 2000.

Question 4:

Central Fraud Registry has been set up by which of the following?

Options:

- A. Reserve Bank of India
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Enforcement Directorate
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Central Fraud Registry has been set-up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) .

It is an online searchable database of frauds reported by banks, in the form of Central Fraud Registry, has been set up to enable timely identification, control and mitigation of fraud risk and for carrying out due diligence during the credit sanction process



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Question 5:

Consider the following statements about Deep Ocean Mission:

1. It will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).
2. The nodal agency to implement the mission is the Department of Science and Technology(DST).

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:

Ministry Of Earth Sciences Plans Rs 8000 Crore 'Deep Ocean Mission' To Boost India's Sea Exploration Capabilities. The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago.

The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies.

Two key projects planned in the 'Deep Ocean Mission' report include a desalination plant powered by tidal energy and a submersible vehicle that can explore depths of at least

6,000 metres.

Science & Technology



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1. Which following statement is correct-

- a.. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is developing methane-powered rocket engines.
- b. Methane, which can be synthesized with water and carbon dioxide in space, is often described as the space fuel of the future.
- c. It should be known that ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre spread across two campuses in India one is at Trivandrum (Kerala) and another is located in Bangalore Karnataka.
- d. ALL of ABOVE

ANSWER –d

ISRO is developing methane-powered rocket engines. Methane, which can be synthesized with water and carbon dioxide in space, is often described as the space fuel of the future. Space agency is developing two 'LOx methane' engines (liquid oxygen oxidizer and methane fuel) engines. One of the two projects is trying to convert the existing cryogenic engine, which uses liquid hydrogen for fuel, into a LOx methane engine. The other is a smaller engine of 3 tones thrust, which will feature an electric motor. These are being developed at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Trivandrum. The space agency's officials are not willing to give further details, these being R&D projects and therefore could not come to fruition. Asked if ISRO's effort towards methane means its intention to shift away from the existing hydrazine-based fuels, ISRO currently prefers to use a fuel called Unsymmetrical Di-Methyl Hydrazine, along with Nitrogen tetroxide for oxidiser, in its liquid fuel (Vikas) engines, which are used in the lower stages of its rockets, PSLV and GSLV. This fuel, like all hydrazine-based fuels, is said to be highly toxic and cancer-causing. Globally, governments are keen on banning hydrazine. Besides, methane beats hydrazine on every other count, too. Apart from being non-toxic, it has a higher specific impulse (which means one kg of the gas can lift one kg of mass for a longer time), it is easy to store, does not leave a residue upon burning, less bulky, and, importantly, can be synthesized up in space.

2. Consider the following statement biometric Seafarer identification document which is not true-

- a. China has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)
- b. The new document will give a foolproof identification to seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
- c. The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organization on BSID.



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d. None of these

Answer-a

India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi today. He also handed over the new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers. The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India had made a presentation on this technology at ILO. The BSID introduces modern security features. It will have a biometric chip embedded in it. The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods. At the time of data capturing the live face is cross matched through passport photo using a face matching software. The card has two optical security features- Micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern. Software has been developed for capturing the facial biometrics and its authentication through the public key infrastructure. In India the BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. The Government notified the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Bio-metric Identification Document) Rules in 2016. The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them. Nine data collection centers have been setup at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag & Kandla for issue of BSID. Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by the Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID. The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000. All the existing seafarers will be given BSID within the next 2 years. After this, it is estimated that around 15000 new seafarers will be issued BSIDs annually.

3. Which is not true about E-cigarette:

a. E-cigarettes (Electronic cigarette) are generally known as battery-operated devices that produce vape by heating nicotine mixed solution, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes.

b. On 18th September, 2019, in a press conference Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced complete ban on e-cigarettes. This calls for complete ban on production, sale, manufacturing, and advertising of e-cigarettes

c. Citing use of e-cigarettes causing a lot of damage across the world, Finance Minister informed that 300 million US citizens are using e-cigarettes and a 78 per cent increase in the use of e-cigarettes has been found among high school students in the US.

d. None of these.



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Answer-d

An electronic cigarette is a battery-operated device that emits doses of vaporized nicotine, or non-nicotine solutions, for the user to inhale. It aims to provide a similar sensation to inhaling tobacco smoke, without the smoke. Also known as e-cigarettes, e-cigs, electronic nicotine delivery systems, vaporizer cigarettes, and vape pens, they are marketed as a way to stop or cut down on smoking.

E-cigarettes have been taken up by millions around the world since they first appeared on the Chinese market in 2004. In 2016, 3.2 percent of adults in the United States were using them. The Indian government has told a court that its federal ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes implies that their use is also prohibited, legal documents seen by Reuters showed, in a further clampdown on the devices. Citing health risks, India in September banned the import, manufacture, sale, advertisement, storage and distribution of e-cigarettes, dashing future plans of companies such as U.S.-based Juul Labs and Philip Morris International. India's decision, however, did not ban the use of such devices outright, and a senior Health Ministry official told Reuters after the announcement that e-cigarette use would not be barred. The ordinance is aimed at banning the product. Once the import, production, manufacture, distribution and storage of e-cigarettes is prohibited, it is implied that the use of e-cigarettes is also prohibited. Paving the way for a complete ban on e-cigarettes, the Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, by voice vote.

4. Consider the following statement SARAL index:

- (1) SARAL stands for State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness.
- (2) The index aims to incentivize rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the states
- (3) Karnataka has topped this Index

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

Power and renewable energy minister, R K Singh, today launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) to evaluate states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. It was launched at the review planning and monitoring meeting with states and state power utilities in New Delhi. "To achieve our rooftop solar targets, it is important to develop an ecosystem that ensures information symmetry, access to financing and clear market signals, According to the release, SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment. it has been designed by



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MNRE, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Ernst & Young.

SARAL aims to make the policy framework robust, create an implementation and investment climate, enhance consumer experience, and build a business ecosystem. Apart from this, it is also aimed at helping the states channelize investments.

5. Recently Power Minister has approved which energy as Renewable Energy?

- (a) Ocean energy
- (b) Coal energy
- (c) Solar energy
- (d) Thermal energy

Answer-a

In a decision that would give boost to the ocean energy in India, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri RK Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy. Accordingly, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO). Oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient. A variety of different technologies are currently under development throughout the world to harness this energy in all its forms. Deployment is currently limited but the sector has the potential to grow, fuelling economic growth, reduction of carbon footprint and creating jobs not only along the coasts but also inland along its supply chains.

As Government of India steps up its effort to reach the objectives to contemplate its Renewable Energy and climate change objectives post 2022, it is opportune to explore all possible avenues to stimulate innovation, create economic growth and new jobs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint. India has a long coastline with the estuaries and gulfs. MNRE looks over the horizon at development of new technology and considers the various options available to support its deployment. Most types of technologies are currently at pre-R&D / demonstration stage or the initial stage of commercialization. Basic R&D is being looked after by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (example: National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai). MNRE intends to support demonstration projects of proven technologies and as approved by expert committee constituted by MNRE.

ECONOMY

Question 1.

Which among the following categories of subsidies are prohibited under the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and countervailing measures (SCM)?

1. Export Subsidies
2. Local Content Subsidies



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3. Subsidies to enhance production of Goods

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:

Explanation:

The SCM Agreement creates two basic categories of subsidies: Prohibited Subsidies and Actionable Subsidies.

a. Prohibited Subsidies: These subsidies are prohibited under the agreement and includes two sub-categories- Export Subsidies and Local Content Subsidies.

- Export Subsidies: These include the subsidies given by the Governments specifically for boosting the exports from their economies. Some of these subsidies may include Provision of direct subsidies to the Industries based upon their export performance, Internal transport and freight charges on export shipments etc.

- Local Content Subsidies: These include the subsidies given by the Government to the Industries to prefer the domestic goods over the imported goods in their manufacturing process. For instance, the Government may provide subsidies to only those car manufacturing Industries that use the domestically procured tyres and do not use the imported tyres. Both these categories of subsidies are prohibited and not allowed under the agreement.

b. Actionable Subsidies: The Actionable subsidies include those subsidies which are basically given in order to enhance the production of goods and services. These may include loans at concessional rates, cheaper land, tax benefits etc. These subsidies are not prohibited. However, if any member country believes that the actionable subsidies of any other member country is adversely impacting its domestic Industry, then a member country can possibly take two actions. It may either impose countervailing duty or it can challenge such subsidies at the WTO.

Question 2.

Consider the following statements with respect to GST Compensation Mechanism:

1. The GST Compensation cess is used to compensate the states for any loss they incur within the first five years of GST implementation.
2. According to the GST Act, States are guaranteed compensation if the GST revenue growth is less than 14 per cent.

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:

Explanation:

The introduction of the GST was a major tax reform aimed at simplifying and rationalizing the indirect tax regime in India. It subsumed a number of central and state indirect taxes such as Excise Duty, Service tax, Central Sales Tax, VAT/ Sales Tax, Octroi duty etc. Some of the states had apprehension that introduction of the GST would lead to fall in their revenue. Hence, in order to allay the fears of the states, the Central Government promised for compensating the states for the losses in their revenue through the imposition of GST Compensation cess.

- Compensation cess is levied on luxury and sin goods, and the proceeds are used to compensate states for any loss they incur within the first five years of GST implementation.

- According to the GST Act, States and UTs with Assemblies are guaranteed compensation if the GST revenue growth is less than 14 per cent. The amount is paid bi-monthly.



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Question 3.

With reference to Minimum Support Prices (MSP), consider the following statements:

1. It is announced by the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to ensure fair and remunerative prices to the farmers.
2. Presently, the MSP is fixed as per the C2 Approach as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers.

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 D:

Explanation:

- The CACP considers various factors such as the cost of cultivation and production, productivity of crops, and market prices for the determination of MSPs.
- Different methodologies may be used to calculate the MSPs. These are (i) A2 Approach, which includes cost of inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, labour; (ii) A2+FL Approach, which includes A2 and the implied cost of family labour (FL); and (iii) C2 Approach, which includes the implied rent on land and interest on capital assets and A2+FL.
- Hence, C2 approach is considered to be the most comprehensive approach which can be used to calculate the MSP.
- The National Commission on Farmers led by M.S. Swaminathan had recommended for the adoption of C2 Approach for fixing the MSP. However, presently, the MSPs are fixed at least 50% more than cost of production as calculated according to A2+FL approach..

Question 4.

Recently, the concept of Elephant Bonds was in news in India. What do these "Elephant Bonds" deal with?

- A. Financing for Elephant Corridors
- B. Financing for extremely big Infrastructure projects
- C. Amnesty scheme for the people with black money
- D. None of the above

Answer C:

Explanation:

According to various estimates, the total amount of black money outside India is estimated to be between \$200 bn to \$ 490 bn. The people who have stashed away the black money are apprehensive of declaring this undisclosed foreign income since it may lead to their prosecution under Black Money Act. In this regard, the advisory group has recommended an amnesty scheme in the form of Elephant Bonds for the people who have undisclosed foreign Income. The proceeds of the Elephant Bonds would be used for financing infrastructure development.

Question 5.

Which among the following International agencies publishes the Goods Trade Barometer Index?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. WTO
- C. International Trade Centre
- D. UNCTAD

Answer B:



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Explanation:

The WTO has developed a set of indicators to provide "real-time" information on trends in world trade. The Goods Trade Barometer combines a variety of trade-related component indices into a single composite index that highlights turning points in world merchandise trade and provides an indication of its likely trajectory in the near future.

POLITY

Question 1:

Which of the following is true about the widely debated 'Clause 6' of the Assam Accord of 1985?

Options:

- A. It determines the cut off date for illegal immigrations entering Assam
- B. It makes the state responsible for providing constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to Assamese people
- C. It provides the list of documents acceptable as a proof in NRC updation
- D. It makes the Union government responsible for building detention centres in Assam

Answer: B**Explanation:**

Three major communities, perceived to be migrants in Assam, have expressed concern over the recommendations of the high-powered committee on the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985. These communities are the Bengal-origin or Bengali-speaking Muslims (referred to as Miyas), the Bengali Hindus and the Gurkhas.

Clause 6 states: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people." However, no government has passed any legislation since 1985 to provide constitutional protection to the Assamese people as envisaged under Clause 6.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements with regards to the Rajya Sabha elections.

1. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.
2. If a seat becomes empty due to the member's death or resignation, the member chosen to fill this vacancy will serve a full term of 6 years.
3. Members of a state's Legislative Assembly vote in the Rajya Sabha elections in what is called proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system.
4. The voting value of each MLA's vote is the same.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: C

Explanation:

The biennial elections for 55 Rajya Sabha seats were recently postponed. The Constitution provides that the Rajya Sabha shall consist of 250 members, of which 12 members shall be nominated by the President from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service; and not more than 238 representatives of the States and of the Union Territories.

Members representing States are elected by elected members of legislative assemblies of the States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Members representing Union Territories are chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law prescribe.

- The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.
- According to Section 154 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a member chosen to fill a casual vacancy will serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term of office.
- Members of a state's Legislative Assembly vote in the Rajya Sabha elections in what is called proportional representation with the single transferable vote (STV) system. Each MLA's vote is counted only once.

Question 3:

Mekedatu dam, recently in the news, is being built in which of the following states?

Options:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have strongly objected to Karnataka's bid to seek approval for the Mekedatu dam project at the fifth Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting in New Delhi.

A multi-purpose balancing reservoir project over Mekedatu, built at a cost of Rs 5,912, was aimed at solving the drinking water problems of Bengaluru and Ramnagar district. This project was also touted as one that could generate hydroelectricity to meet the power demand in the state.

Tamil Nadu contended that "the proposed reservoir would affect the natural flows of the river Cauvery. It argued that Cauvery was already a deficit basin and the construction of the project, or any other project "would drastically affect the lower riparian State in getting their due share of waters.



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Question 4:

Consider the following statements about FATF – Financial Action Task Force.

- A. It is an inter- governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7
- B. There are 39 member of FATF, representing most financial centres around the world.
- C. The blacklist in FATF has only two nations – Iran and North Korea.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

It is an inter- governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris. **Member Countries:** There are 39 member of FATF, representing most financial centres around the world. This includes 2 regional organisations- GCC and EC. The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.

Objectives:

The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

FATF lists:

Grey List: Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Black List: Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

Question 5:

The recently in news ASKDISHA chat box is related to which of the following?

Options:

- A. Income tax department
- B. IRCTC
- C. Ministry of Environment
- D. HRD Ministry

Answer: B

Explanation:



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The Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has powered voice-enabled ASKDISHA Chatbot to converse with customers in the Hindi language. The customers can now ask queries to ASKDISHA in Hindi by voice as well as text.

It is an Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot. It is a special computer programme designed to simulate conversation with users, especially over the internet. Initially launched in the English language in October 2018. Developed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The aim is to resolve queries of railway passengers over the internet pertaining to various services offered.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Question 1:

Which of the following nations' highest court recently declared that the people have "the right to a self-determined death, including the freedom to take one's life"?

Options:

- E. Italy
- F. Mexico
- G. Germany
- H. Argentina

Answer: C

Explanation:

Germany's highest court has ruled that a 2015 law banning professional assisted suicide was unconstitutional, saying in a landmark decision that people have "the right to a self-determined death". The ruling is a major victory for the terminally ill patients, doctors and assisted suicide organisations who brought the case, complaining that the existing law went too far. The court said the right to a self-determined death included "the freedom to take one's life and seek help doing so"..

Question 2:

Specie of which of the following animals has been recently named in the honour of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg?

Options:

- A. Tortoise
- B. Spider
- C. Land Snail
- D. Ant

Answer: C

Explanation:



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Craspedotropis gretathunbergae is a new species of land snail discovered recently. It is named in honour of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. The new species comes from tropical rainforests and is sensitive to drought and extreme temperatures. The snails were found during a field course conducted by Taxon Expeditions at Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre in Brunei. The two-millimetre-long snails have dark grey tentacles, a pale body and a concave shell, whose outer part is greenish-brown.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements.

1. In 2017, India contributed 21 per cent of the world's milk production, thus making it the largest milk producer in the world.
2. Further, according to The World Dairy Situation, 2019 report, milk yield per cow in the US is the highest in the world, standing at 10,500 kg per cow as against 1,715 kg per cow in India, which is the lowest in the world.
3. In addition, Indian farmers enjoy favourable terms of trade in the dairy arena, with their share in the consumer price standing at around 60 per cent, which happens to be the highest in the world (as per the International Farm Comparison Network's Dairy Report, 2018).

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: A

Explanation:

India and US: Dairy Sector trade:

- US is a net exporter in dairy trading, with its share in global exports standing at 4.9 per cent as opposed to an import share of around 2.8 per cent in 2018. In contrast, the share of India is minuscule at 0.3 per cent and 0.06 per cent in global dairy exports and imports, respectively, in 2018.
- In 2017, India contributed 21 per cent of the world's milk production, thus making it the largest milk producer in the world.
- This has been made possible by the almost 73 million marginal and landless farmers who directly work in the dairy sector and hold, on average, two milch animals per farmer.
- Further, according to The World Dairy Situation, 2019 report, milk yield per cow in the US is the highest in the world, standing at 10,500 kg per cow as against 1,715 kg per cow in India, which is the **second-lowest in the world after Pakistan**.
- In addition, Indian farmers enjoy favourable terms of trade in the dairy arena, with their share in the consumer price standing at around 60 per cent, which happens to be the highest in the world (as per the International Farm Comparison Network's Dairy Report, 2018).
- Though these farmers are basically large dairy farmers who benefit from economies of scale, they only get around 43 per cent of what the consumer pays, which is 1.4 times lower than that of India.



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Question 4:

Which of the following nations was not of the founding members of BIMSTEC?

Options:

- A. Myanmar
- B. India
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Thailand

Answer: A

Explanation:

The 2nd Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Disaster Management Exercise was recently conducted in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The focus of the 2nd edition of Exercise is on heritage structures' protection.

In an effort to integrate the region, the grouping was formed in 1997, originally with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and later included Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. BIMSTEC, which now includes five countries from South Asia and two from ASEAN, is a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia. It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Question 5:

India, along with Brazil and Malaysia, has been taken off from the developing nations list by the US Trade Representative since it has more than _____ share in the global trade.

Options:

- A. 0.5%
- B. 1%
- C. 1.5%
- D. 2%

Answer: A

Explanation:

The USTR used the following criteria to determine whether a country was eligible for the 2% de minimis standard: (1) Per capita Gross National Income or GNI (2) share of world trade (3) other factors such as Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) membership or application for membership, EU membership, and Group of Twenty (G20) membership.

India, along with Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were taken off the list since they each have at least a 0.5% share of the global trade, despite having less than \$12, 375 GNI (the World Bank threshold separating high income countries from others).

India was taken off the list also because — like Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa — it is part of the G20. Given the global economic significance of the G20, and the collective economic weight of its membership (which accounts for large shares of global economic output and trade), G20 membership indicates that a country is developed.



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PT - HISTORY

Question. 1. Which among the following social reformer was popularly known as 'Lokhitawadi' ?

- a. Gopal Hari Deshmukh.
- b. M. G . Ranade.
- c. Keshub Chandra Sen.
- d. Gopal Ganesh Agarkar.

Ans. A.

Explanation :

- **Gopal Hari Deshmukh** (1823 –1892) was an Indian activist, thinker, social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.
- He started writing articles aimed at social reform in Maharashtra in the weekly *Prabhakar* under the pen name **Lokhitawadi**.
- He promoted emancipation and education of women, and wrote against child marriages, dowry system, and polygamy.
- He established in Ahmedabad a branch of Prarthana Samaj, founded an institute promoting remarriages of widows.

Question 2. Consider the following statements.

1. The Extremists wanted to extend the Swadeshi and Boycott movement from Bengal to the rest of the country.
2. The Extremists wanted to adopt a complete boycott of every association with the British government.
3. The Extremists proposed to adopt “‘self-government’ on the lines of the United Kingdom or the Colonies” as the goal of the national movement.
4. The Extremists wanted to place their own nominee to the Presidentship of the Indian National Congress in 1906.

Which one among the above were the factors for the **Surat split** in the Congress in 1907?

- a. 1 and 2 only.
- b. 2 and 3 only.
- c. 1, 2 and 4 only.
- d. 3 and 4 only.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- In December 1905, at the Benaras session of the Indian National Congress presided over by Gokhale, the Moderate-Extremist differences came to the fore.



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- The Extremists wanted to extend the Boycott and Swadeshi Movement to regions outside Bengal and also to include all forms of associations (such as government service, law courts, legislative councils, etc.) within the boycott programme and thus start a nationwide mass movement. The Extremists wanted a strong resolution supporting their programme at the Benaras session.
- The Moderates, on the other hand, were not in favour of extending the movement beyond Bengal and were totally opposed to boycott of councils and similar associations. They advocated strictly constitutional methods to protest against the partition of Bengal. As a compromise, a relatively mild resolution condemning the partition of Bengal and the reactionary policies of Curzon and supporting the swadeshi and boycott programme in Bengal was passed. This succeeded in averting a split for the moment.
- At the Calcutta session of the Congress in December 1906, the Extremists wanted either Tilak or Lajpat Rai as the president, while the Moderates proposed the name of Dadabhai Naoroji, who was widely respected by all the nationalists.
- Finally, Dadabhai Naoroji was elected as the president and as a concession to the militants, the goal of the Indian National Congress was defined as 'swarajya or self-government like the United Kingdom or the colonies. **Therefore, the goal of swaraj or 'self- government' for the national movement was a brainchild of Dadabhai Naoroji, not of the Extremists.**
- Also, a resolution supporting the programme of swadeshi, boycott and national education was passed. **The word swaraj was mentioned for the first time**, but its connotation was not spelt out, which left the field open for differing interpretations by the Moderates and the Extremists.



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- The Extremists, emboldened by the proceedings at the Calcutta session, gave a call for wide passive resistance and boycott of schools, colleges, legislative councils, municipalities, law courts, etc. The Moderates, encouraged by the news that council reforms were on the anvil, decided to tone down the Calcutta programme.
- The two sides seemed to be heading for a showdown. The Extremists thought that the people had been aroused and the battle for freedom had begun. They felt the time had come for the big push to drive the British out and considered the Moderates to be a drag on the movement.
- The Extremists wanted the 1907 session to be held in Nagpur (Central Provinces) with Tilak or Lajpat Rai as the president and reiteration of the swadeshi, boycott and national education resolutions.
- The Moderates wanted the session at Surat in order to exclude Tilak from the presidency, since a leader from the host province could not be session president (Surat being in Tilak's home province of Bombay).
- Instead, they wanted Rashbehari Ghosh as the president and sought to drop the resolutions on swadeshi, boycott and national education. Both sides adopted rigid positions, leaving no room for compromise. The split became inevitable, and the Congress was now dominated by the Moderates who lost no time in reiterating Congress commitment to the goal of self- government within the British Empire and to constitutional methods only to achieve this goal.

Question 3. **Who among the following leaders were a part of the Ghadar Party?**

1. Bhagwan Singh.



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2. Mohammed Barkatullah.

3. Bhai Parmanand.

Select the correct code:

- a. 3 only.
- b. 1 and 3 only.
- c. All the above.
- d. None of the above.

Ans. C.

Explanation: Source: NCERT- XII (Bipan Chandra) Pg. no. 214-215.

➤ Lala Hardayal, Md. Barkatullah, Bhagwan Singh,

Ram Chandra, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Baba Gurumukh

Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Rahmat Ali Shah and Bhai Parmanand were the prominent Ghadar Leaders.

➤ Inspired by the Ghadar Party, 700 men of the 5th Light Infantry at Singapore revolted under the leadership of Jamadar Chisti Khan and Subedar Dundey Khan.

Question.4 **The Montague-Chemlsford reforms led to the enactment of the Government of India Act of 1919 and 'Dyarchy' was introduced in India? What was the meaning of 'dyarchy'?**



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- a. Creation of upper and lower houses in the Provincial government.
- b. Creation of two houses of legislature at the Central Level.
- c. Division of powers between Governor-General and his Executive Council.
- d. Division of powers between the Governor and Ministers.

ANS. D.

Explanation: (Source- NCERT-XII – Bipan Chandra , Pg no. 220-221.)

- Dyarchy was a system of double government introduced by the [Government of India Act](#) (1919) for the provinces of British India. It marked the first introduction of the democratic principle into the [executive branch](#) of the British administration of [India](#). Though much-criticized, it signified a breakthrough in British Indian government.
- The principle of dyarchy was a division of the executive branch of each provincial government into Governor and popularly responsible Ministers.
- The subjects of administration were divided between the councillors and the ministers, being named **reserved** and **transferred** subjects, respectively. The reserved subjects came under the control of Governor under the heading of finance, law and order and included [justice](#), the police, land revenue, and irrigation. The transferred subjects (i.e., those under the control of Indian ministers) included local self-government, education, [public health](#), [public works](#), and agriculture, forests, and fisheries.
- Moreover, the Governor retained complete control over the finances and could over-rule the ministers on any grounds that he considered special.



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- The system ended with the introduction of provincial autonomy in 1935.

Question 5. The Rowlatt Act of 1919 empowered the Government-

1. To suspend the right of Habeus Corpus.
2. To suspend the right of freedom of speech and expression.

Select the correct code:

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

Ans. C.

Explanation : Source- NCERT -XII – Bipan Chandra (pg.np.221).

- Passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in February 1919, the Rowlatt Act enabled British government to jail anyone suspected of plotting to overthrow them for as long as two years without trial and also to try them summarily without any jury. To imprison any person without trial and conviction in a court of law is considered as a violation of Habeus Corpus.
- Based on the report of the committee headed by Justice S.A.T. Rowlatt, it replaced the Defence of India Act (1915) instituted during the First World War with a permanent law that gave the British more power over Indians. The repressive legislation was strongly



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opposed by the Indian leaders, especially Mahatma Gandhi, who organised a movement against it that led to the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre in April 1919 and subsequently, the Non-Cooperation Movement.

- The main provisions of the 'Rowlatt Act' envisaged the arrest and deportation of any person on mere suspicion of sedition and revolt; the trial of those arrested by special tribunals established for that purpose; and the declaration of possession of treasonable literature as a punishable offence.
- The repressive Act also provided for the press to be controlled even more strictly; gave sweeping powers to the police to search premises and arrest anyone merely on suspicion without needing a warrant; the right to indefinitely detain suspects without trying them and to conduct in-camera trials for forbidden political acts without any jury.
- The draconian legislation recommended by Justice Rowlatt also denied the undertrials the right to information regarding the identity of their accusers as well as the nature of the evidence presented against them for their alleged crimes.
- After completion of their sentences, the convicts had to deposit securities to ensure their good behaviour and were also prohibited from participating in political, religious, or educational activities.
- The 'Rowlatt Act' was vehemently opposed by all the Indian leaders. Mahatma Gandhi opposed the Act and other activists like **Mazhar Ul Haq, Madan Mohan Malviya, and Mohammed Ali Jinnah**, all of whom joined the rest of their Indian colleagues in resigning from the Council after unanimously voting against the Act.

GEOGRAPHY



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1) Consider the following statements on **Niue Island** :-

- (i) It is situated in South Pacific Ocean.
- (ii) It was declared as the World's first Dark Sky Nation.

Choose the correct alternative:

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

Answer c

Explanation :-

Niue Island: It is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean. The island is commonly referred to as "The Rock", which comes from the traditional name "Rock of Polynesia". It is well known as one of the largest upraised coral atoll in the world situated in the middle of the South Pacific within a triangle boundary of Tonga, Samoan and Cook Islands. Its capital is Alofi. The currency used here is New Zealand Dollar. The Governor-General of Niue is Dame Patricia Reddy.

Recently, the tiny Niue Island was declared as the World's first 'Dark Sky Nation' by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The IDA has approved the island's application for the protection of its sky, land and sea due to the island's efforts to restrict artificial light pollution so the starry sky can be enjoyed.

Dark Sky Place: Dark Sky Places are spaces recognized for responsible lighting policies that keep the night-time environment naturally dark. Over 130 of these accredited dark sites are present across the world.

2) Recently, Paleontologists from Flinders University in Australia working with a University from Canada have discovered the almost complete skeleton of an ancient fish known as *Elpistostege watsoni*. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It belongs to Devonian period.
- (ii) It resembles human bones partly.
- (iii) It was discovered in Australia.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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



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Answer a

Explanation :-

Elpistostege watsoni: Elpistostege is an extinct genus of tetrapod-like vertebrate that lived in the Late Devonian period. The shark-like Elpistostege watsoni is 1.6m-long. It was a slippery predator that lived in what is now eastern Canada.

Recently, Paleontologists from Flinders University in Australia working with a University from Canada have discovered the almost complete skeleton of an ancient fish known as Elpistostege watsoni. Scans of the fish's fins show it had bones that resemble those found in the human hand. The researchers examined a fossil of "Elpistostege" and according to them it is the first fish fossil that is a missing link between fish and reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. It gives insights into how the human hand evolved from fish fins. It was discovered in Miguasha, Canada.

- 3) The Government of India and The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 200 million loan to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in which of the following state :-
- (a) Odisha
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh
 - (c) Assam
 - (d) Maharashtra

Answer d

Explanation :-

Maharashtra: The Government of India and The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 200 million loan to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra. Its objective is to improve road safety and better connect rural areas with markets and services. Road construction and repairing work will be started with the loan. ADB and GOI project will improve the condition of about 2,100 kilometres (km) of rural roads to all-weather standards. It will also provide climate resilience and safety features, connecting rural communities with productive agricultural areas and socio-economic centres.

- 4) Prime Minister of India dedicated to nation the second Multi Modal Terminal on river Ganga at Sahibganj under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) in September, 2019. It is located in which state:
- (a) West Bengal
 - (b) Bihar
 - (c) Jharkhand
 - (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer c



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Explanation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi heralded a new era in the development journey of Jharkhand when he inaugurated the second riverine Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal online from Ranchi, Jharkhand built at Sahibganj. He dedicated to nation the second Multi Modal Terminal built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand on 12 September, 2019. This trade point has been completed in record time of 2 years. This is the 2nd of three Multi Modal Terminals (MMTs) being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). In November 2018, PM Modi inaugurated first MMT at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The Rs.290 crore multi-modal cargo terminal which will have a cargo storing capacity of 3 million tonne (MT) per year, a stockyard and parking and berthing space for two vessels, has been built by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on River Ganga at Sahibganj. The Sahibganj terminal will play an important role in the development journey of Jharkhand and Bihar acting as a gateway for industries in these states, and connecting them to global markets. The terminal will specially benefit the coal sector, stone chips, fertiliser, cement and sugar industries. Acting as a point of convergence for Road-Rail-River routes it will improve connectivity to Kolkata, Haldia and adjoining areas.

5) Consider the following statements on **Kisan Rail Scheme** :-

- (i) It is to provide transport services to farmers by public private partnership.
- (ii) Separate trains to be launched under this.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

Kisan Rail Scheme: It is a scheme that was introduced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman in the Union Budget 2020-21. The scheme was aimed at setting up a chain to transport highly perishable goods like meat, milk and fish through the public private partnership method. The Kisan Rail includes refrigerated coaches in Express and Freight trains.

Recently, the Union Government formed a committee for the implementation of Kisan Rail. The panel comprises the representatives from the railways and departments of the agriculture ministry. The function of the committee will be to monitor the creation of cold storage supply chain for perishable goods. The perishable goods are to be transported through freight and express trains with refrigerated coaches.