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Date: 29th May 2020 (Set 29)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Recently, the Centre approved creation of a National Testing Agency. With reference to National Testing Agency, consider the following statements:

1. Its creation will relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – which conducts exams like the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test – and the All India Council for Technical Education of the burden of conducting entrance tests.
2. NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by PMO.

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:

Statement 1 is correct. Its creation will relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – which conducts exams like the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test – and the All India Council for Technical Education of the burden of conducting entrance tests.

Statement 2 is incorrect. NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.

The Union Cabinet has approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE

NTA will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government of India to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.



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Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the MANAV-Human Atlas Initiative:

1. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
2. It aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body.

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 MANAV Project aims to create an open and interactive atlas of human biology, compiling, curating and synthesizing data at the molecular, cellular, tissue and organismic level from scientific literature and public databases.

MANAV is funded by DBT and co-funded by the technology company Persistent Systems. It will be executed by two of India's major research Institutes, [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research \(IISER\), Pune](#), and the National [Center for Cell Sciences \(NCCS\), Pune](#), with technical support from Persistent Systems.

Question 3:

With reference to National Population Register (NPR), consider the following statements:

1. National Population Register (NPR) is a register of usual residents of the country.
2. The data for the NPR will be collected for the first time along with Census 2021.
3. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.

Which of these statements is / are correct?



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Options:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

National Population Register (NPR) is a Register of usual residents of the country.

It is being prepared at the local, sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003.

It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.

A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.

It will be conducted by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Home Ministry.

The data for the NPR was first collected in 2010 along with the house listing phase of Census 2011.

Question 4:

The term "90-90-90" in the news recently, is related to which of the following diseases:-

Options:

- A. AIDS
- B. COVID-19
- C. Cancer
- D. Tuberculosis

Answer: A

Explanation:



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90–90–90 is an ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic.

By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status.

By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Question 5:

With reference to “LIDAR”, recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. LIDAR is a remote sensing method to measure distance to a target by illuminating the target.
2. Two types of LIDAR are topographic and bathymetric.

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:

Statement 1 is correct. LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses combined with other data recorded by the airborne system generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. LIDAR instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver

Statement 2 is correct. Two types of LIDAR are topographic and bathymetric. Topographic LIDAR typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land, while bathymetric LIDAR uses water-penetrating green light to also measure seafloor and riverbed elevations.



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Science & Technology

1. Consider the following statement which is not true –

- ISRO. have recently succeeded in discovering hundreds of Li-rich giant stars
- Li-rich giant stars indicating that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium.
- Lithium (Li), is one of the three primordial elements,
- none of above

Answer-a

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have discovered hundreds of Li-rich giant stars indicating that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium. They have also associated such Li enhancement with central He-burning stars, also known as red clump giants, thereby opening up new vistas in the evolution of the red giant stars. Lithium (Li), is one of the three primordial elements, apart from Hydrogen and Helium (He), produced in the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) whose models predict primordial Li abundance ($A(\text{Li}) \sim 2.7 \text{ dex}$). However, the present measurement of Li in the interstellar medium and very young stars is about 4 times more than the primordial value. Thus, identifying sources of Li enrichment in our Galaxy has been a great interest to researchers to validate Big Bang Nucleosynthesis as well as a stellar mixing process. Apart from reactions, in which high energy cosmic ray particles bombard with heavier nuclei such as carbon and oxygen-producing lighter particles such as Li, stars are also proposed as likely Li source in the Galaxy. In general, stars are considered as Li sinks. This means that the original Li, with which stars are born, only gets depleted over stars' life-time as Li burns at relatively very low temperatures of about $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$ – a range which is easily encountered in stars.

2. consider the following statement about National Innovation Foundation-

- It is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST),
- It was set up in February 2000 at Delhi.
- It has brought out an indigenous herbal medication (dewormer) in form of commercial product for livestock owners as an alternate to chemical method of treatment of worm.

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



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(a) Only (1) & (3)

(b) Only 2,&3

(c) Only 1 & 2

(d) All the above

Answer –a

National Innovation Foundation India (NIF) has brought out an indigenous herbal medication (dewormer) in form of commercial product for livestock owners as an alternate to chemical method of treatment of worm. In order to make the indigenous herbal dewormer titles 'wormivet' available for livestock owners, NIF worked on a medication in treatment of endoparasite (worm) infestation among livestock sent by Harshadbhai Patel, Gujarat, which was found to be unique. The anthelmintic activity of this medication in naturally infested helminthiasis was assessed. The results demonstrated successful impact of this medication. It is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. It was set up in February 2000 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat to provide institutional support for scouting, spawning, sustaining and scaling up the grassroots innovations across the country.

3. Which indian organisation has recently developed kiosk for COVID-19 sample collection-

(a)ICMR

(b)AIIMS

(c)OFB

(d)DRDO

Answer –d

Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad has added another product to the portfolio of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to combat Coronavirus (COVID-19) by developing COVID Sample Collection Kiosk (COVSACK). The unit has been developed by DRDL in consultation with the doctors of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Hyderabad. The COVSACK is a kiosk for use by healthcare workers for taking COVID-19 samples from suspected infected patients. Patient under test walks into the Kiosk and a nasal or oral swab is taken by health care professional from outside through the built in gloves.

The Kiosk is automatically disinfected without the need for human involvement, making the process free of infection spread. The shielding screen of kiosk cabin protects the health care worker from the aerosols/droplet transmission while taking the sample. This reduces the



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requirements of PPE change by health care workers. After the patient leaves the Kiosk, four nozzle sprayers mounted in the kiosk cabin disinfect the empty chamber by spraying disinfectant mist for a period of 70 seconds. It is further flushed with water & UV light disinfection. The system is ready for next use in less than two minutes. Voice command can be given through two-way communication system integrated with the COVSACK. It is possible to configure COVSACK to be used either from inside or outside as required by the medical professionals.

The COVSACK costs nearly Rs one lakh and the identified industry based at Belgaum, Karnataka can support 10 units per day. The DRDO has designed and developed two units and handed over these to ESIC Hospital, Hyderabad after successful testing.

4. Consider the following statement about blood plasma therapy-

1. convalescent-plasma therapy”, the treatment using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person.
2. This therapy is akin to passive immunization.
3. 1890, Emil von Behring, a German physiologist, discovered

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

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) an Institution of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology has obtained a go-ahead for taking a bold step to provide innovative treatment to patients suffering from COVID-19 disease. Technically called “convalescent-plasma therapy”, the treatment aims at using the immune power gained by a recovered person to treat a sick person. Indian council for medical research (ICMR) the top authorising body in India has given approval to the SCTIMST for carrying out the novel treatment. This therapy is akin to passive immunization

When a pathogen like novel coronavirus infects, our immune systems produce antibodies. Like the police dogs, the antibodies span out to identify and mark the invading virus. White blood cells attach the identified intruders, and the body gets rid of the infection. The therapy, like blood transfusion, harvests the antibody from a recovered patient and ingest into a sick person. Helped by the antibody, the immune system mounts robust combat on the virus.



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Way back in 1890, Emil von Behring, a German physiologist, discovered that the serum obtained from a rabbit infected with diphtheria was effective in preventing the diphtheria infection. Behring was awarded the first-ever Nobel prize for medicine in 1901. Antibodies were not known at that time. Convalescent serum therapy was less effective and had substantial side effects. It took many years before the antibody fraction could be separated. Still, the unintended antibodies and impurities caused side effects.

5. Consider the following statement about Cytokine Storm-

1. Cytokine storms are associated with a wide variety of infectious and noninfectious diseases
2. Cytokine storm is used in COVID 19 disease.
3. A cytokine storm is an overproduction of immune cells and their activating compounds which, in a flu infection, is often associated with a surge of activated immune cells into the lungs.

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

Evidence is emerging that a subset of the infected patients develop severe COVID-19 because of an overreaction of their immune systems, which triggers what is known as a “cytokine storm syndrome” (CSS). While various studies have shown that the disease has more severe consequences for those above the age of 60 years, and especially those with existing co-morbidities such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, chronic respiratory disease and cancer, some countries have also reported deaths of younger people, including teenagers, after catching the infection. The immune systems in our bodies protect us from bacteria, viruses, and parasites by removing them from our systems. The immune system gets activated by things that the body does not recognise as its own. These things are called antigens, and include bacteria, fungi and viruses. An effective immune system response involves inflammation, an important and indispensable part of the process. This is visible when, for example, you hurt your knee or ankle — the area of this external injury becomes red and swollen, and the immune system in response deploys white blood cells to the injured area to begin work on repairs. Without such an immune response, injuries would not heal, and infections would become deadly.



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Cytokines are signalling proteins that are released by cells at local high concentrations — a cytokine storm or CSS is characterised by the overproduction of immune cells and the cytokines themselves because of a dysregulation in the process. A severe immune reaction, leading to the secretion of too many cytokines in the bloodstream, can be harmful since an excess of immune cells can attack healthy tissue as well.

Economy

Question 1.

Consider the following statements:

1. Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (MPFA) has been signed between RBI and Government of India.
2. MPFA has made Inflation Targeting and achieving price stability the responsibility of RBI.

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:

Question 2.

Consider the following sources of Renewable Energy:

1. Solar
2. Wind
3. Bio-power
4. Small hydropower projects (< 25 MW).



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Which among the following correctly depicts the decreasing order of installed power capacity of these sources?

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

Answer B:

Question 3.

Consider the following statements about Interconnect Usage Charge:

1. It is the cost paid by one mobile telecom operator to another when its customers make outgoing mobile calls to the other operator's customers
2. TRAI has put an end to the IUC as it was adding to the financial burden of consumers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Question 4.

Consider the following statements about Regional rural Banks:

1. They operate in rural areas only
2. They were established under the provisions of RBI act of 1934.



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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:

Question 5.

Consider the following statements about Merchant Discount Rate:

1. It is a fee charged from customers by the merchants on transactions through credit card only.
2. In line with budget announcement made in 2019-20, Ministry of Finance has done away with Merchant Discount Rate on all digital payments made in the country.

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:



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Polity

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Fundamental Duties.

1. The idea of Fundamental Duties has been borrowed from the Constitution of erstwhile USSR. Till then, Japan was only the democratic state that contains the duties of the citizen.
2. Fundamental Duties are embedded in Part IV of the Indian Constitution under Article 51A.
3. Originally the duties were ten in number, later on by 86th Amendment in 2002, they levelled up to eleven.
4. There is a duty under Article 51A to protect and improve the environment, but India has been severely affected by air & water pollution and the impact of climate change.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Fundamental Duties in Indian Constitution:

- The idea of Fundamental Duties has been borrowed from the Constitution of erstwhile USSR. Till then, Japan was only the democratic state that contains the duties of the citizen.
- Fundamental Duties are embedded in Part IV of the Indian Constitution under Article 51A. originally the duties were ten in number, later on by 86th Amendment in 2002, they levelled up to eleven.
- Fundamental duty enshrined under Article 51A(e) seeks to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood, transcending the barriers of religion, language, etc.
- There is a duty under Article 51A(g) to protect and improve the environment, but India has been severely affected by air & water pollution and the impact of climate change.
- India has a composite culture (under Article 51A(f)), "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" sums up that perspective.
- However, presently there is growing intolerance in Indian society, reflected by cases of cow vigilantism, mob lynching, etc.
- Democracy cannot establish deep roots in society until the citizens don't complement fundamental rights with their fundamental duties. For a polity to survive, citizens should have a high sense of duty.
- Universally, great emphasis has been laid on citizens' duties.

Article 29(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

It states that "Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible."



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Question 2:

Consider the following statements about the Bodos.

1. Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam
2. In 1966-67, the demand for a separate state called Bodoland was raised under the banner of the Plains Tribals Council of Assam (PTCA), a political outfit.
3. "Divide Assam fifty-fifty", is a call given by the leaders of Bodoland.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Home Ministry has declared the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) along with all its groups, factions, and front organisations as an "unlawful association" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The ban has been extended by five more years for its involvement in a series of violent activities including killings and extortion, and for joining hands with anti-India forces.

Who are the NDFB?

Alongside political movements, armed groups have also sought to create a separate Bodo state. In October 1986, the prominent group Bodo Security Force (BdSF) was formed by Ranjan Daimary. The BdSF subsequently renamed itself as the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), an organisation that is known to be involved in attacks, killings, and extortions.

Who are Bodos?

Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam, making up over 5-6 per cent of the state's population. They have controlled large parts of Assam in the past.

The four districts in Assam — Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang — that constitute the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD), are home to several ethnic groups.

The Bodoland dispute:

- In 1966-67, the demand for a separate state called Bodoland was raised under the banner of the Plains Tribals Council of Assam (PTCA), a political outfit.
- In 1987, the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) renewed the demand. "Divide Assam fifty-fifty", was a call given by the ABSU's then leader, Upendra Nath Brahma.
- The unrest was a fallout of the Assam Movement (1979-85), whose culmination — the Assam Accord — addressed the demands of protection and safeguards for the "Assamese people", leading the Bodos to launch a movement to protect their own identity.



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Question 3:

'Rohtang tunnel', recently in the news, cuts through which of the following ranges

Options:

- A. Pir Panjal range
- B. Hindu Kush range
- C. Karakoram range
- D. Dhauladhar range

Answer: A

Explanation:

Rohtang tunnel will officially be ready for inauguration by September 2020.

Key facts about the tunnel:

- The 8.8 km long tunnel will cut through Pir Panjal range.
- When complete, it will become the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet.
- The tunnel provides a temporary winter link to the outside world not only to residents of Lahaul and Spiti but also to those living in Zaskar Valley of Ladakh.
- The Seri nullah default zone inside the tunnel which had affected the work badly in the past many years has been fixed and only a 100m work is left to be completed.

Question 4:

Consider the following statements.

1. The discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the petitioner or could not be produced by him.
2. Mistake or error apparent on the face of the record.
3. Any other sufficient reason. It means a reason that is analogous to the other two grounds.

Which of these statements is/are ground/grounds for acceptance of a Curative petition?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Petitioners plan to seek review of the recently delivered Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi and telecom revenue verdicts. Besides, the Supreme Court itself agreed to review its Sabarimala verdict but refused to do so in the Rafale case.

What is a review petition and when can it be filed?

Under Article 137, the Supreme Court has the power to review any of its judgments or orders.



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Scope for review:

- When a review takes place, the law is that it is allowed not to take fresh stock of the case but to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice.
- The court has the power to review its rulings to correct a “patent error” and not “minor mistakes of inconsequential import”.
- In a 1975 ruling, Justice Krishna Iyer said a review can be accepted “only where a glaring omission or patent mistake or like grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility”.

In a 2013 ruling, the Supreme Court has laid down three grounds for seeking a review of a verdict it has delivered:

- The discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the petitioner or could not be produced by him.
- Mistake or error apparent on the face of the record.
- Any other sufficient reason. It means a reason that is analogous to the other two grounds.
- In 2013 Union of India v. Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Ltd) case, the court laid down nine principles on when a review is maintainable.

Question 5:

Which of the following states in India recently became the only state to make it mandatory to have the presence of a person with disabilities in all panchayats across the state?

Options:

- Kerala
- Andhra Pradesh
- Gujarat
- Chhattisgarh

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Chhattisgarh Cabinet has approved an amendment to the State Panchayati Raj Act, 1993, which makes mandatory the presence of a person with disabilities in all panchayats across the state. This will make it the only State to have such members in all panchayats.

Key facts:

- Every panchayat will now have differently abled members, either elected or nominated.
- If differently abled members are not elected through the electoral process, then one member, either male or female, would be nominated as a panch.
- And as for janpads and zilla panchayats, the State government would nominate two such members, one male and one female, to them.



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International Relations

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Contract for the Web, which was in the news recently.

1. It has been announced by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web.
2. The Contract consists of nine principles — three each for governments, private companies, and individuals and civil society to endorse.
3. Governments will “Ensure everyone can connect to the Internet”, “Keep all of the Internet available, all of the time”, and “Respect and protect people’s fundamental online privacy and data rights”.
4. Companies will “Make the Internet affordable and accessible to everyone”, “Respect and protect people’s privacy and personal data to build online trust”, and “Develop technologies that support the best in humanity and challenge the worst”.
5. Citizens will “Be creators and collaborators on the Web”, “Build strong communities that respect civil discourse and human dignity”, and “Fight for the Web” so that it “remains open and a global public resource for people everywhere, now and in the future”.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- E. 3, 4 & 5 only
- F. 2, 3 & 4 only
- G. 1, 4 & 5 only
- H. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, has announced a “Contract for the Web” — aimed at saving the future of his invention.

What is the Contract for the Web?

- The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to together commit to building a “better” Web. The goal is to create a standard policy for a Web that benefits all.
- The Contract consists of nine principles — three each for governments, private companies, and individuals and civil society to endorse.
- It has been created by representatives from over 80 organisations, including governments, companies, civil society activists, and academics.

What are the principles in the Contract?

- Governments will “Ensure everyone can connect to the Internet”, “Keep all of the Internet available, all of the time”, and “Respect and protect people’s fundamental online privacy and data rights”.
- Companies will “Make the Internet affordable and accessible to everyone”, “Respect and protect people’s privacy and personal data to build online trust”, and “Develop technologies that support the best in humanity and challenge the worst”.
- Citizens will “Be creators and collaborators on the Web”, “Build strong communities that respect civil discourse and human dignity”, and “Fight for the Web” so that it “remains open and a global public resource for people everywhere, now and in the future”.



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Question 2:

'START' treaty, recently in the news, is a treaty between which of the following two nations?

Options:

- A. China & Japan
- B. USA & Russia
- C. Australia & USA
- D. Germany & France

Answer: B

Explanation:

Russia has observed that there was no longer enough time left for Moscow and Washington to negotiate a full-fledged replacement for the New START nuclear arms control treaty before it expires in February 2021.

Background:

The New START accord is the last major nuclear arms control treaty between the world's two biggest nuclear powers and limits the number of strategic nuclear warheads they can deploy. The fate of the accord has been in the spotlight since Washington in August pulled out of another landmark strategic arms accord, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), citing violations by Russia that Moscow denies.

About New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty):

- It is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- Signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011.
- Replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was to expire in December 2012.
- Its name is a follow-up to the START I treaty, which expired in December 2009, the proposed START II treaty, which never entered into force, and the START III treaty, for which negotiations were never concluded.

Question 3:

The Starlink Network project of SpaceX is concerned with which of the following?

Options:

- A. Sending humans to Mars
- B. Providing internet throughout the world
- C. Helping the newly made American Space force
- D. Sending a rover to Jupiter

Answer: B

Explanation:



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The SpaceX, the world's leading private company in space technology, fired a spray of 60 satellites into orbit. This is the first operational batch of what is intended to eventually evolve into a constellation of nearly 12,000 satellites aimed at providing low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.

About Starlink network project:

- The Starlink network, as the project is called, is one of several ongoing efforts to start beaming data signals from space, and also the most ambitious.
- SpaceX announced the satellite Internet constellation in January 2015, and launched two test satellites in February 2018. The company has now deployed 122 satellites in orbit.
- SpaceX appeared ready to scale up its ambition, telling the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in filings through the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that it intends to deploy another 30,000 Starlink satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in coming years.
- The ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies, with a membership of 193 member states, some 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organisations. The FCC is the statutory communications regulator of the US.

Question 4:

Smart Safety Surveillance, or 3S, programme, recently in the news, has been recommended by which of the following bodies?

Options:

- A. IMF
- B. UNESCO
- C. FAO
- D. WHO

Answer: D

Explanation:

The central government is planning to expand the reach of the Smart Safety Surveillance, or 3S, programme. This is being done to optimize post-marketing surveillance of priority drugs and vaccines, and ensure the vaccines distributed under the universal immunization programme are safe.

What is 3S project?

- The 3S project was recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), considering the limited safety data on vaccines introduced in India.
- As part of the 3S project, India is evaluating the recently-introduced rotavirus vaccines. It is also trying to strengthen the collaboration among key stakeholders, such as ministry of health and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), to ensure high levels of vigilance.



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Question 5:

'Six day war' is associated with which of the following nations?

Options:

- A. USA
- B. Japan
- C. Israel
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: C

Explanation:

The United States has told that it no longer thinks Israeli settlements in the West Bank violate international law. The new US view is different from that of most countries' on this issue. Previously, in 1978 and 1981, the US had taken opposite stands.

- The West Bank was captured by Jordan after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
- Israel snatched it back during the Six Day War of 1967, and has occupied it ever since.
- It has built some 130 formal settlements in the West Bank, and a similar number of smaller, informal settlements have mushroomed over the last 20-25 years.
- Over 4 lakh Israeli settlers — many of them religious Zionists who claim a Biblical birthright over this land — now live here, along with some 26 lakh Palestinians.

History

Question 1. Which one among the followings was not the objective of the Cabinet Mission of 1946?

- a. To obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- b. To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties.
- c. To formulate a constitution-making body i.e., the Constituent Assembly of India.
- d. To grant independence with two Dominions of India and Pakistan.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

Objectives of Cabinet Mission

- To obtain an agreement with the Indian leaders as to the framing of a constitution for India.
- To formulate a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India).
- To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties.

The main reasons for the failure of the Cabinet Mission are given below:

- The Congress Party wanted a strong centre with minimum powers for the provinces.
- The Muslim League wanted strong political safeguards for the Muslims like parity in the legislatures.
- Since both parties had many ideological differences and could not find common ground, the mission came up with its own set of proposals in May 1946.



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- The Dominion of India would be granted independence, without any partition.
- The provinces would be divided into three groups/sections:
 1. Group A: Madras, Central Provinces, UP, Bihar, Bombay and Orissa
 2. Group B: Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan
 3. Group C: Bengal and Assam

Question 2. Consider the following statements about the Government of India Act, 1935.

1. It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
2. It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
3. It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

Select the correct code:

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

Ans. d.

Explanation:

Features of the 1935 Act:

- It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
- It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Moreover, the Act introduced responsible governments in provinces, that is, the governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
- It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.
- It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).
- It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.
- It extended franchise. About 10 per cent of the total population got the voting right.
- It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.



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- It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

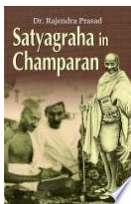
Question 3. Who was the author of the book- **Satyagraha in Champaran** ?

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- S. Gopal.
- Mahadev Desai.
- J.B. Kripalani.

Ans. a.

Explanation:

- In 1928 the book authored by Rajendra Prasad was published.



Question 4. Which one of the following was not constituted as Famine Commission in British India ?

- Strachey Commission.
- McDonnell Commission.
- Whitley Commission.
- Lyall Commission.

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- The Royal **Commission on Labour** or the Whitley **Commission on Labour** was set up in 1929 to inquire into the existing conditions of **labour** in industrial undertakings and plantations in **India**. The **Commission** was chaired by John Henry Whitley. The **commission** submitted its report in 1931.

First Famine Commission

- It was set up in 1878 under the Chairmanship of **Sir Richard Strachey**. The commission recommended state interference in food trade in the event of famine. India witnessed another major famine in 1896-97.

Second Famine Commission



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- It was constituted in 1897 under the Chairmanship of Sir James Lyall. This commission recommended the development of irrigation facilities.

Third Famine Commission

- It was set up in 1900 under the Chairmanship of **Sir Anthony** (Later Lord) **McDonnell** to re-evaluate and recommend changes in report of the previous commission, based on the findings of the recent famine. This Commission recommended that the official machinery dealing with a famine must work around the year so that the scarcity of food grains could be controlled well in time.

Though, three Famine Commissions were constituted, but the British Government was never serious in dealing with the welfare plans for the masses. Famines continued to occur and the Famine of Bengal (1943) was the most horrifying. This was one of the worst gifts of the British Rule to India.

Question 5. Which among the following ashrams were established by Gandhiji?

1. Phoenix Ashram.
2. Kochrab ashram.
3. Sabarmati Ashram.
4. Sevagram Ashram.

Select the correct code:

- a. 1, 3 and 4.
- b. 3 and 4.
- c. 1,2 and 3.
- d. All the above.

Ans. d.

Explanation:

- The Phoenix Settlement or Ashram was founded by Gandhiji near Durban, South Africa, in 1904.
- On May 25 1915, Gandhiji set up an ashram in Kochrab, Ahmedabad.
- On June 17, 1917, Gandhiji formed a new ashram in Sabarmati.
- **Sabarmati Ashram** (also known as **Gandhi Ashram**, **Harijan Ashram**, or **Satyagraha Ashram**) is located in the [Sabarmati](#) suburb of [Ahmedabad](#), [Gujarat](#). It was established by Gandhiji.
- Sevagram is the name of a town in the state of Maharashtra, India. It was the place of Gandhi's ashram and his residence from 1936 to his death in 1948.