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Date: 30th Apr 2020 (Set 10)

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about Yellow Rust:

1. It is a fungal disease which affects the rice crop.
2. It turns the leaves of the crop into a yellowish colour.

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:

Yellow rust is a fungal disease, which turns the crop's leaves into a yellowish colour and stops the photosynthesis activity, which eventually could result in a drop in wheat crop productivity.

The detection of the Yellow Rust disease in the wheat crop in the sub-mountainous parts of Punjab and Haryana has raised anxiety among the farmers about the drop in the crop's yield, even as the respective agriculture departments are leaving nothing to chance to ensure that the spread of the disease does not go beyond control.

Question 2:



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Consider the following statements about the Refugee Convention, 1951:

1. It defines “refugees”
2. India is a Party to the Convention.

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:

The Refugee Convention, 1951 defines refugees as persons fleeing persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. Refugees get legal rights – to education, work and property.

The Convention also applies the principle of ‘Non-refoulement’, which prevents the states from sending back the refugees to persecution in their home countries.

India is not a Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements about the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC):

1. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring deposits for up to the limit of Rs. 1,00,000 of each deposit in a bank.
3. All co-operative banks are covered by it.

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:

The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India. It was established for the purpose of providing insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities.

The DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring deposits for up to the limit of Rs. 5,00,000 of each deposit in a bank.

At present all Co-operative Banks are covered by the DICGC.

Question 4:

“Beijing +25”, recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

Options:

- A. To mark 25 years of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action to remove barriers to socio-economic equality
- B. To mark 25 years of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action to remove barriers to gender equality
- C. To mark 25 years of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action to remove barriers to regional equality.
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:



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To mark 25 years of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the UN Women organized a National Consultation on the Review of Beijing+25, to galvanize all stakeholders to implement actions that remove the most conspicuous barriers to gender equality. The aim of the consultation was to bring together the civil society, and the women and youth of India, gender equality advocates from all walks of life, in a national public conversation on the urgent actions that need to be taken for the realization of gender equality.

The year 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), (Beijing + 25).

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about the PUNCH(Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere) Mission:

1. It is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission
2. It is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

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:

PUNCH (Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere) is a NASA mission focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

It will consist of a constellation of four microsatellites that through continuous 3D deep-field imaging, will observe the corona and heliosphere as elements of a single, connected system.

The mission is expected to be launched in 2022.



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Science & Technology

1. E-Rozgar Samachar journal was launched by which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- b) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
- (c) Ministry of Law
- (d) Ministry of Labour & Employment

ANSWER –a

The e-version of Rozgar Samachar has been launched recently by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises. It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts. It is expected to meet the emerging challenge of young readers switching to electronic modes of communication. Rozgar Samachar is the corresponding version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the flagship weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It was launched in 1976 with a view to provide information on employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed youth of the country. The journal is published in English (Employment News), Hindi (Rozgar Samachar) and Urdu (Rozgar Samachar) and has a circulation of over one lakh copies per week. .

2. Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System-

1. The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) is connected to a central server and it stores photographs, fingerprints and retinal scans of all criminals of record.
2. AMBIS was designed with the purpose of identifying suspects at the click of a mouse and providing information about criminal elements to other police forces, be it within the country or abroad
3. The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) is launched by Uttar Pradesh state government



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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 –C

The Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) is the new innovation in the way of storing data like fingerprints, photographs, and retinal scans of all criminals. This system will help the police in nabbing the culprits in speedy way. Maharashtra became the first state in the country which adopt the AMBIS system. The Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) was launched by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. AMBIS will be beneficial in storing data of criminals and speed up the investigation in criminal cases. AMBIS will work as a Google search engine for the police in finding the details of the criminals in a click. This is the first of its kind technology used in the country to capture the criminals.

Importance of the AMBIS System

1. The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) has enabled the police to cross-reference to put faces to criminals whose fingerprints have been captured on paper over the decades.
2. AMBIS would act like a digital lab of the criminal records. It will have records like photographs, fingerprints and retinal scans of all criminals.
3. AMBIS is connected to a central server so the police departments of the country and abroad would be able to find the detail of any particular criminal.
4. With the help of AMBIS system the police would be able to trace (with the help of mobile live scanners) on the spot that whether the suspect had any previous criminal record or not. If new data does not match with old data stored in the AMBIS then the criminal is a new comer.

3. Consider the following statement regarding Samudrayaan project:

- (1) With this project India aims to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle
- (2) Submarine Vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometer for 72 hours



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(3) The Samudrayaan is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' pilot project for deep ocean mining for rare minerals

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only(1)
- (b) Only (2)&3)
- (c) Both(1) and (2)
- (d) All the above

ANSWER-d

Samudrayaan: After Chandrayaan, India's is planning to explore the deep sea region with the 'Samudrayaan' project. The 'Samudrayaan' project proposes to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for ocean studies. The project is expected to become a reality by 2021-22. The project has been undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). NIOT Director MA Atmanand said that NIOT has similarly undertaken Samudrayaan as ISRO has envisioned carrying an astronaut to space under its 2022 'Gaganyaan' mission. The 'Samudrayaan' is a pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for deep ocean mining for rare minerals. Under the proposed 'Samudrayaan' project, three men will be sent into deep sea in a submersible vehicle to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out various deep underwater studies. If the 'Samudrayaan' project is successful, India will join the league of developed nations in the exploration of minerals from oceans. Developed countries have already carried out such missions. India could be the first developing country to undertake such a project.

4. 24th World Energy Congress was hosted by which of the following country?

- (a) UAE
- (b) Saudi Arab
- (c) Switzerland
- (d) Qatar

ANSWER-a

The World Energy Congress (WEC) is the world's largest and most influential energy event with over 150 countries represented, covering all aspects of the energy agenda. Running since 1924, the triennial World Energy Congress enables dialogue amongst Ministers, CEOs, policy-makers and industry practitioners on critical developments in the energy sector. As the world's premier energy gathering, the Congress offers a unique opportunity for participants to better understand energy issues and solutions from a global perspective. Over the 90-year history of the World Energy Council, the Congress has been staged in over



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20 cities across the world and the 24th World Energy Congress will take place in Abu Dhabi at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, United Arab Emirates from 9-12 September 2019. The last three World Energy Congresses took place in:

23rd World Energy Congress, 9-13 October 2016, Istanbul, Turkey

22nd World Energy Congress, 13-17 October 2013, Daegu, Republic of South Korea

21st World Energy Congress, 12-16 September 2010, Montreal, Canada.

The 24th World Energy Congress aims to bring together international energy stakeholders, including governments, private and state corporations, academia and media. With over 10,000 participants expected, the Congress will attract over 250 star speakers, 50 ministers, 500 CEOs, 500 Media with an exhibition space that will cover 40,000 sqm.

5. The famous Palani panchamirtham which has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag is given as prasadam at which temple?

- (a) Brihadeeswara Temple
- (b) Murugan temple
- (c) Somnath Temple
- (d) Siddhivinayak Temple

ANSWER- B

Palani Panchamirtham, a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu, Kerala's Tirur betel leaf and two other products have been awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag, the Commerce Ministry said on Friday. The move is expected to help producers get maximum price for their premium produce. The two other products that received the tag include Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from Mizoram. GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality. Palani Panchamirtham, a prasadam which is a main offering in the Abisegam of Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, situated in Palani Hills. It is a combination of five natural substances - banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom in a definite proportion. It is prepared in a natural method without addition of any preservatives or artificial ingredients and is well known for its religious fervour and gaiety. "This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag," the ministry said.

Tawlhlohpuan, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving and intricate designs that are made by hand.



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Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means 'to stand firm or not to move backward'. Tawlhlohpuan, which holds high significance in the Mizo society, is produced throughout the state of Mizoram. Aizawl and Thenzawl town are the main centre of production. Darjeeling Tea, Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among other registered GIs in India. Experts said that the award of GI tag gives protection to the producers of those genuine products which command premium pricing in both domestic and international markets. Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product

Economy

Question 1.

Consider the following statements related to Gross Enrolment ratio (GER):

1. It is the ratio of children enrolled in a particular class (regardless of the age) to the eligible population in the age group for that class.
2. The GER can never be more than 100.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Explanation:

Gross Enrolment ratio (GER): GER is the ratio of children enrolled in a particular class (regardless of the age) to the eligible population in the age group for that class. For example, to calculate the GER in the Primary School (age group 6-10 years), we use the below formula: Number of children (regardless of age) enrolled in Primary Schools / Number of the children in the age-group 6-10 years

If the GER is more than 100, it indicates that many older students, who probably missed out on the opportunity to study at that age, are joining school to get an education now.

Net Enrolment ratio (NER): NER is the ratio of children enrolled in a particular class to the eligible population in the age group for that class. For example, to calculate the NER in the Primary School (age group 6-10), we use the below formula: Number of children of the age-group 6-10 years enrolled in Primary Schools / Number of the children in the age-group 6-10 years.

Question 2.

Consider the following statements related to Domestic- Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs):

1. In order to identify the D-SIBs, the RBI takes into account only those banks whose size is equal to or more than 2% of GDP.
2. Presently, only the State Bank of India has been categorized as D-SIBs in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Explanation:



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In order to identify the D-SIBs, the RBI takes into account only those banks whose size is equal to or more than 2% of GDP. Further, these banks are categorized as D-SIBs only when they fulfill the below mentioned criteria:

- Size;
- Interconnectedness;
- Lack of readily available substitutes or financial institution infrastructure; and
- Complexity.

The systemic importance of a bank is computed as weighted average scores of all 4 indicators highlighted above. Thus, the systemic importance score of a bank would represent its relative importance with respect to the other banks. Banks that have scores above a threshold score are classified as D-SIBs.

Presently, the SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank have been identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

Question 3.

With reference to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), consider the following statements:

1. Both NDRF and SDRF have been set up under Disaster Management Act 2005.
2. The NDRF is entirely funded by the Centre while the SDRF is entirely funded by the concerned State Government.
3. The NDRF and SDRF can be used for providing both immediate relief as well as for paying compensation for loss/damage to properties /crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer A:

Explanation:

Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, a financial mechanism has been set up by way of National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) at national level and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) at state level to meet the rescue and relief expenditure during any notified disaster.

- The NDRF is entirely funded by the Centre through the imposition of National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) on specified goods such as Cigarettes and Crude Petroleum.
- NDRF is maintained by Central Government under the Public Account of India.
- In case of SDRF, 90% of the funds are provided by the Centre and the remaining 10% of the funds are provided by the concerned state government. The Government of India approves the annual allocation to SDRF based on the recommendations of successive Finance Commission.
- The financial assistance from SDRF/NDRF is for providing immediate relief and cannot be used for paying compensation for loss/damage to properties /crops.
- At any point, the State Government has fair amount of funds available under the SDRF. In case of any natural calamity beyond the coping capacity of a State, additional financial assistance, as per norms, is provided by the Central Government from NDRF.

Question 4.

Which among the following is/are determined by the Quota of the member countries in the IMF?

1. Financial Contribution of the member countries.
2. Voting Power of the Member countries
3. Borrowing Limit on the Member countries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only



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

Answer D:

Explanation:

The Quotas determine the maximum amount of financial resources a member is obliged to provide to the IMF. The financial contribution of each member country is mainly determined based on 4 indicators- Size of GDP (50%), Openness (30%), Economic Variability (15%) and International Reserves (5%). The Quotas are denominated in Special Drawing rights (SDRs) which is the IMF's unit of account. The Quotas in the IMF also determines the member country's financial and organizational relationship with the IMF in the following manner:

1. Voting Power: The Quota also largely determines the voting power of the member countries.
2. Borrowing Limit: The Quota also determines the amount of loans which a member country can avail from the IMF. For example, presently the member countries are allowed to borrow up to 145% of its quota on annual basis and 435% cumulatively.

Question 5.

Which among the following International agencies publishes the Global Innovation Index (GII)?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. WIPO
- C. US Chamber of Commerce
- D. UNCTAD

Answer B:

Explanation:

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global forum for intellectual property policy. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations and assists its 192 member states in developing a balanced international Intellectual Property (IP) legal framework to meet society's evolving needs. It provides business services for obtaining IP rights in multiple countries and resolving disputes. It delivers capacity-building programs to help developing countries benefit from using IP.

Polity

Question 1:

Consider the following statements about the Chief of Defence Staff, recently appointed by the Government of India.

1. CDS provides his recommendations to the central government about all three armies – Air Force, Army, and Navy.
2. CDS will have a 3 year term and 70 years as the retirement age.
3. The CDS is a four-star officer selected from among the serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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



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Answer: C

Explanation:

The CDS is a four-star officer selected from among the serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces. While being "first among equals" among the service chiefs, the CDS would be a single-point military advisor the CDS will not hold any military command. The holder of the post would also be the head of all tri-service command structures, assisted by a deputy, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff to replace the post of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. The CDS would head a newly-created Department of Military Affairs (DMA), under the Ministry of Defence, as its secretary. Apart from heading the DMA, the CDS will also be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (PC-CoSC). He will also be the Principal Military Adviser to the Minister of Defence. As the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, CDS will perform the following functions:

- The Chief of Defence Staff is described by officials as the "first among equals" among service chiefs.
- The CDS will be tasked with trimming weapons procurement procedures and integrating operations of the Indian armed forces- Army, Air Force and Navy.
- Apart from being the military advisor for the government, the CDS will also head the Department of Military Affairs.
- The CDS will have the authority to direct the service chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force and will also have the authority to create theatre commands as and when needed.
- Command tri-service agencies, organisations, and commands including those related to cyber and space.
- CDS will be member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the Minister of Defence and Defence Planning Committee chaired by the National Security Advisor.
- Function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Bring about jointness and ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure in the three Services.
- Implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).
- Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services aimed at augmenting combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.
- Assign inter-Services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals.

The CDS's salary and perquisites will be same as the service chiefs. The CDS will come under the Right to Information Act.

Question 2:

The Minister of State for Personnel recently launched the Good Governance Index (GGI). In this context, consider the following statements.

1. GGI is a uniform tool that will help in assessing the status of governance and the impact of interventions undertaken by governments across all states and UTs.
2. The objective of GGI is to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs.
3. The GGI takes into consideration 10 sectors measured on a total of 50 indicators.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:



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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Minister of State for Personnel launched the Good Governance Index (GGI). December 25, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was declared Good Governance Day by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014.

The GGI had been “scientifically designed” to reflect various parameters of governance.

About Good Governance Index (GGI):

- GGI is a uniform tool that will help in assessing the status of governance and the impact of interventions undertaken by governments across all states and UTs.
- Various principles have been kept in mind while selecting the indicators, i.e. it should be easy to understand & calculate, citizen-centric & result driven, leading to improved results and applicable to all states and UTs, among others.
- Various consultation meetings were held with the stakeholders, including consultations with sector experts, ministries, states & UTs.

The objectives of GGI are:

- To provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs.
- To enable states and UTs to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance.
- To shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.
- Based on the Root Cause Analysis of grievances and as a step towards Good Governance, DoP&PW has planned certain initiatives to be acted upon during 2019-24.
- These initiatives include Review & Rationalization of Pension Rules, 1972, promotion of Digital Life Certificate, e-PPO and its integration with Digi Locker, Real-Time Monitoring of Family Pension of CAPF Martyrs.

Calculation method:

- The GGI takes into consideration 10 sectors — agriculture and allied sectors, commerce and industries, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, social welfare & development, judicial and public security, environment and citizen-centric governance.
- These 10 governance sectors are further measured on a total of 50 indicators. These indicators are given different weightage under one governance sector to calculate the value.
- The states and UTs are divided into three groups — big states, north-east and hill states, and Union territories.

Question 3:



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Consider the following statements about Swachh Survekshan.

1. Indore for the fourth time in a row, has been named as the cleanest city in the country.
2. The process of ranking cities and town of India on the basis of cleanliness was first conducted in 2016.
3. Among cantonment boards, Tamil Nadu's St.Thomas Mount Cantt was ranked 1st in quarter 1 of 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020'.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Results (July-September) of 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' have been released. SS League is conducted in three quarters (April-June, July-September and October-December) with the objective of sustaining the on-ground performance of cities along with monitoring of when it comes to cleanliness. Swachh Survekshan 2020 is the 5th edition of the annual urban cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry.

Performance of various states:

- Cleanest city: Indore for the fourth time in a row.
- In the category of cities having population more than 10 lakh, Bhopal stood second in first quarter results (April to June), while Rajkot grabbed the second spot in second quarter results (July-September) of 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020'.
- The third position was grabbed by Surat in the first quarter and Navi Mumbai in the second quarter.
- In the second quarter, Vadara was ranked fourth, followed by Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Nashik, Greater Mumbai, Allahabad and Lucknow.
- Among cantonment boards, Tamil Nadu's St.Thomas Mount Cantt was ranked 1st in quarter 1 whereas Delhi Cantt ranked first in the 2nd quarter.
- Secunderabad Cantonment Board in Hyderabad is the worst performer among other cantonment boards.

All About Swachh Survekshan:

- The process of ranking cities and town of India on the basis of cleanliness was first conducted in 2016, which covered 73 cities.
- The second and third round of the survey in 2017 and 2018 widened the coverage of the assessment to 434 cities with a population of one lakh and above and 4,203 cities respectively.

Objectives of Swachh Survekshan:

- The annual cleanliness survey aims to encourage large scale participation of citizens in cleanliness drives.
- It aims to ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities.



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- It aims to create awareness among all sections of the society regarding the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

Question 4:

Which of the following statements is not true about Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana?

Options:

- A. The planning process in each village will be a participatory exercise coordinated by the District Collector.
- B. The constituency fund, MPLADS, would be available to fill critical financing gaps.
- C. The Project was launched on the occasion of birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan.
- D. Launched in 2014, it is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in five villages by 2019.

Answer: D

Explanation:

About Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana:

- Launched in 2014, it is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019.
- The goal is to develop three Adarsh Grams or model villages by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
- The Project was launched on the occasion of birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan.

Implementation:

- The scheme will be implemented through a village development plan that would be prepared for every identified gram panchayat with special focus on enabling every poor household to come out of poverty.
- The constituency fund, MPLADS, would be available to fill critical financing gaps.
- The planning process in each village will be a participatory exercise coordinated by the District Collector. The MP will play an active facilitating role in this exercise.
- Adoption and adaptation of technology and introduction of innovations are critical to this programme. This will include use of space application and remote sensing for planning, mobile based technology for monitoring, agriculture technology for increasing productivity etc.
- At the state level there will be an Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary consisting of the relevant Departments and including experts, as required with at least two Civil Society representatives.



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- The district Collector will be the nodal officer for implementing the SAGY. He will conduct a monthly review meeting with representatives of the participating Line Departments. The Members of Parliament concerned will chair the review meetings.
- SAGY gives focus to community participation. Social mobilization of village community can trigger a chain of other development activities in the village.

Question 5:

Consider the following statements about the Zonal Councils in India.

1. The Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
2. These are Statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act 1956.
3. The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Sikkim and (viii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.
4. The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The 25th meeting of the western zonal council will be held in January 2020. Maharashtra will be the lead coordinator this time. Zonal councils are Statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act 1956.

There are five Zonal councils namely:

- The Northern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- The Central Zonal Council, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Eastern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal.
- The Western Zonal Council, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- The Southern Zonal Council, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Sikkim and (viii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.



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Composition:

- Chairman – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- Vice Chairman – The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- Members– Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
- Advisers– One person nominated by the Planning Commission (which has been replaced by NITI Ayog now) for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.
- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.

International Relations

Question 1:

Which of the following two nations exchange their list of nuclear installations annually in accordance with the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities?

Options:

- A. India and China
- B. India and Pakistan
- C. USA and Russia
- D. USA and Iran

Answer: B

Explanation:

Both India and Pakistan have exchanged their list of nuclear installations. The exchange was in accordance with the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India. The exchange is done each year on January 1, under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities, also referred to as the Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement.

The agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988, and entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the pact on the first of January of every calendar year.

The need for the agreement had been felt against the backdrop of Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's Osirak reactor near Baghdad. The strike, carried out by Israeli fighter jets over hostile airspace, had set Iraq's nuclear weapons programme significantly.

Question 2:



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The 'Kalapani' border issue is an unresolved border issue between India and which of the following nations?

Options:

- E. Bangladesh
- F. Myanmar
- G. Bhutan
- H. Nepal

Answer: D

Explanation:

Nepal and India are planning to resolve the Kalapani border issue through dialogue. India has clarified that the latest political map of India reflects the sovereign territory of India. The issue was raised by Nepal after India published a new political map that showed the creation of two Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh after revoking the special status of Kashmir on August 5. Ever since, diplomatic sources have maintained that both sides have made conciliatory statements which has so far fallen short of producing a solution to the Kalapani issue.

What's the issue?

In the latest map, India included Kalapani into the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. Nepal government says that Kalapani is an integral part of the country and that talks are still on between New Delhi and Kathmandu over this "unresolved" area. Foreign secretaries of both countries have been assigned the responsibility to resolve the remaining border-related issues between India and Nepal.

Kalapani is located at an altitude of 3600m on the Kailash Manasarovar route. It borders Uttarakhand in India and Sudurpashchim Pradesh in Nepal. Since the Indo-China war of 1962, Kalapani is controlled by India's Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Nepal claims that the river located towards the west of the territory is the main Kali river and thus it falls in its territory, India claims a ridgeline towards the east of the Kalapani territory and hence, includes it in the Indian Union.

Question 3:

The capital city of which of the following nations was recently inducted into the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)?

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

- A. Indonesia
- B. Vietnam
- C. Qatar
- D. China

Answer: B

Explanation:



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The government of Hanoi recently held a ceremony to formally announce that the Vietnamese capital city is joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). To date, the UCCN has granted membership to 246 cities around the world. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

Objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.

The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music.

Joining the Network, cities commit to sharing their best practices and developing partnerships involving the public and private sectors as well as civil society.

As of November, 2019, there are five Indian cities in UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as follows:

- Jaipur-Crafts and Folk Arts(2015).
- Varanasi-Creative city of Music (2015).
- Chennai-Creative city of Music(2017).
- Mumbai – Film (2019).
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019).

Question 4:

Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

1. It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982.
2. The Convention has created three new institutions: - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, International Seabed Authority and Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
3. It has more than 160 member parties, Including China and India.
4. US has still not sanctioned (ratified) the law.

Which of these statements is correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- The Convention has created three new institutions: o International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, o International Seabed Authority, o Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
- It has more than 160 member parties, Including China and India.



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- US has still not sanctioned (ratified) the law.

China has reportedly deployed an airship near South China Sea (SCS) to monitor and control military activity in the area by other countries, especially the United States.

Question 5:

UN Security Council's resolution 'Land for peace' is related to which of the following disputes?

Options:

- A. India & Pakistan
- B. North Korea & South Korea
- C. Israel & Palestine
- D. West Germany & East Germany

Answer: C

Explanation:

US President Donald Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan, Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

About Israel-Palestine conflict

In 1917, during World War I, the British captured Palestine from the Ottoman Empire after the Sykes-Picot Agreement with France.

Later in the Balfour Declaration, Britain pledged establishment of Palestine as national home for Jews.

During World War II, over 3 lakh Jews migrated & resettled in Palestine and demanded a new country. This led to fight to fight between Arabs and Jews i.e. Israel Palestine conflict.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to split the Palestine between Arabs and Jews. The Jewish residents accepted the agreement and declared independence of Israel in 1948 while Arabs rejected the agreement. Consequently, the Arab states of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria declared war on Israel. Israel won the war and expanded its territory reducing Palestine to just Gaza strip and West bank & forcing lakhs of Palestinians to flee from Israel. It was the beginning of this Palestine refugee crisis which ultimately led to the creation of PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) in 1964.

In June, 1967 Six day war was fought between Israel and neighboring Arab countries. During this, Israel captured Gaza strip, Sinai peninsula from Egypt, West bank from Jordan and Golan heights from Syria. **UN Security Council then adopted a resolution for 'Land for peace' and it mandated that Israel should return the captured areas back to the defeated nations.**

History

Question 1. Who among the following viceroys of India wrote a book "Persia and the Persian Question"?

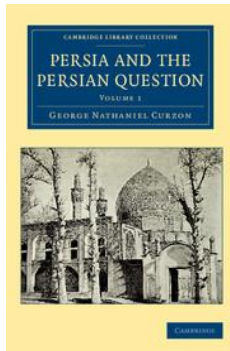


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- Lord Elgin
- Lord Curzon
- Lord Minto
- Lord Irwin

Ans. B.



Explanation: Lord Curzon wrote the book in 1892 to share his experience in Iran and the challenges over there. But this book is a vivid expression of Historical significance of Persia.

Question 2. Who among the following is known for preparing the final-draft of Quit India Resolution?

- Sardar Patel
- Jawahar Lal Nehru
- Mahatma Gandhi.
- Pattabhi Sitarammaiya.

Ans. B.

Explanation:

- After the rejection of the Cripps Offer, the Congress leaders felt compelled to launch an agitational campaign.
- Mahatma Gandhi suggested that the British should "Quit India" as long as they had still time to do so before the Japanese entered India. His draft resolution (a) was considered to be pro-Japanese by other Congress leaders and Jawaharlal Nehru was asked to amend it. The amended resolution (b) was passed in July 1942. So finally, the draft of QIM was prepared by Nehru.
- The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, then imprisoned all Congress leaders before they could take any action.

Question 3: Under which among the following acts, Civil Services examination started for India?

- Charter Act 1813
- Charter Act 1833.
- Charter Act 1853
- Charter Act 1861.



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Answer: c.

Explanation:

- **Lord Cornwallis** is usually known as the Father of civil services in India. He had introduced the Covenanted Civil Services and the Uncovenanted Civil Services.
- The civil services were started in under the Charter Act of 1833, but it was merely on the patronage of the British officials.
- In 1853, the civil services became an open competition however the exams were conducted in London only.
- The Charter Act of 1853 provided for an open competitive examination for the recruitment of civil servants and had deprived the Court of Directors of the power of appointments based on patronage. This was recommended by a committee headed by Lord Macaulay. The first competitive exam was held in 1855.
- The first exams were held in 1855 under the board of control's supervision.

Question.4. Who planted the 'Tree of Liberty' at Srirangapatnam?

- Hyder Ali
- Murshid Quli Khan
- Tipu Sultan
- Alivardi Khan

Ans. C.

Explanation:

- The 'Tree of Liberty' at Srirangapatnam was founded in 1794 by French Republican officers with the support of Tipu Sultan.
- The Liberty Tree was a famous elm tree that stood in Boston before American Revolution.

Question 5. Who founded the Scientific Society?

- Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan.
- Anie Besant.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- Dadabhai Naoroji.

Ans. A.

Explanation:

- The **Scientific Society of Aligarh** was founded by [Sir Syed Ahmed Khan](#) in 1864.
- The society sought to promote liberal, modern education and Western scientific knowledge in the Muslim community in India.
- [Jai Kishan Das](#), a close Hindu associate of Sir Syed served as its secretary from 1867 till 1874.

Geography



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1) The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020 was passed by the Parliament recently for amendments in Mines & Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. Consider the following statements on that :-

- (i) It will remove restrictions for participation of only end users in coal mine auctions.
- (ii) It will restrict the commercial coal mining only for the Indian companies.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer a

Explanation :-

Mineral Law (Amendment) Bill 2020: The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020 was passed in the Rajya sabha on 12 March 2020 with 83 votes. The bill was earlier passed by the Lok sabha on 6th March, 2020. Parliament passed Bill for amendments in Mines & Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.

The amended Bill seeks to will open a new era in Indian coal & mining sector specially to promote Ease of Doing Business. It will remove end-use restrictions for participating in coal mine auctions and open up the coal sector fully for commercial mining by domestic and global companies. The Bill will not only transform the mining sector in the country boosting coal production and reducing dependence on imports but will also facilitate the implementation of FDI policy in the coal sector..

The Bill replaces the ordinance for amendment of the MMDR Act 1957 and CMSP Act. The ordinance was promulgated on January 11, 2020.

The Ordinance, which was cleared by the cabinet in January, had brought amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.

2) Consider the following statements on National Highway Corridor Project :-

- (i) It shall be executed in partnership with the World Bank.
- (ii) It shall benefit the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Choose the correct alternative :-

- (a) only i
- (b) only ii
- (c) both



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(d) none

Answer c

Explanation :-

Union Cabinet: The Union Council of Ministers exercises executive authority in the Republic of India. It consists of senior ministers, called 'cabinet ministers', junior ministers called 'ministers of state' and, rarely, deputy ministers. It is led by the Prime Minister. A smaller executive body called the Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India. The prime minister and ministers of the rank of cabinet minister can only be the members of the Union Cabinet in accordance with Article 75.

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal for the construction of 780 kilometer of National Highway Corridor project. The project involves an investment of 7,660 crore rupees in partnership with the World Bank. The announcement was made by the Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.

The main aim of the project is to rehabilitate and upgrade various National Highways in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Besides redevelopment and up-gradation, environment-friendly and sustainable steps would be taken to build the highway.

- 3) Poshan (Prime Minister's Overreaching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan which was earlier known as National Nutrition Mission is implemented by the the Government of India since 18th December 2017. Consider the following statements on that :-
- (i) The State of Himachal Pradesh has ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of Poshan.
 - (ii) It focuses only on the nutrition level of 60 plus age group.

Choose the correct alternative :-

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

Answer d

Explanation :-

Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh is situated in the south-eastern part of India. It came into existence in its present form in 1956 as a result of the demand of the Andhra for a separate state. Its Capital is Amaravati. The current Governor and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is Biswabhusan Harichandan and Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy respectively.



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As per the recent report shared by NITI Aayog, the State of Andhra Pradesh has ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of Poshan (Prime Minister's Overreaching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan. As part of the programme the State has trained all Angan Wadi Workers on modules created based on lifecycle approach, i.e. first 1000 days of life, with the support of incremental learning Approach (ILA).

Poshan Abhiyan: Poshan Abhiyan which was earlier known as National Nutrition Mission is implemented by the the Government of India since 18th December 2017 to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. The aim of this initiative is reduce malnutrition in the country in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergized and result oriented approach.

The main objective of Poshan Abhiyan is to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of children from 0-6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time-bound manner.

- 4) Mission Bhagiratha is a project that was implemented in 1998 to provide drinking water to every village and city household of the region. The mission is named after the great king Baghiratha who brought the holy river Ganga to the earth. Which rivers are selected for the project :-
- (a) Ganga and Son
 - (b) Ganga and Chambal
 - (c) Godavari and Krishna
 - (d) Godavari and Mahanadi

Answer c

Explanation :-

Telangana: It is a state in India situated on the centre-south stretch of the Indian peninsula on the high Deccan Plateau. It was founded on 2 June 2014. Its Capital city is Hyderabad. The current Governor and Chief Minister of Telangana are Tamilsai Soundararajan and K. Chandrashekar Rao respectively.

Recently, a dedicated monitoring cell was inaugurated under Mission Bhagiratha in Bhongir Circle in Telangana. It was inaugurated by the Superintending Engineer of Mission Bhagiratha. The main objective of the cell is to invite grievances and issues of supply of drinking water. It aims to get prepared to address water scarcity of summer and to record complaints and redress them without any delays.

Mission Bhagiratha: It is a project that was implemented in 1998 by Chief Minister Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao. It is a safe drinking water project. It aims to provide drinking water to every village and city household. It will supply clean drinking water from the rivers of Godavari and Krishna. The mission is named after the great king Baghiratha who brought the holy river Ganga to the earth.

- 5) Which state of India launched 3-schemes for Skill Development and Employment Generation for the young generation as Kaushal Satrang Scheme, Yuva Hub Scheme and Apprenticeship Scheme. :-
- (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Madhya Pradesh



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(c) Haryana

(d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer a

Explanation :-

Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh is a state in northern India. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950. Its Capital city is Lucknow. The current Chief Minister and the Governor of Uttar Pradesh are Yogi Adityanath and Anandiben Patel respectively.

Recently, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath launched 3-schemes in Lucknow for Skill Development and Employment Generation for the young generation of the state in Lucknow. The schemes are Kaushal Satrang Scheme, Yuva Hub Scheme and Apprenticeship Scheme. The main aim of these three schemes is generating employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth of the Uttar Pradesh state. The Uttar Pradesh Government also announced to depute "Arogya Mitras" at all primary health centres to inform people about govt health schemes.

Kaushal Satrang Scheme: This scheme will have seven components which will provide opportunities to the youth.

Yuva Hub Scheme: This scheme not only aims at providing employment to thousands of skilled youth by assisting in project concept and financial help for one year of operation but also facilitate setting up of 30,000 startups.

Apprenticeship Scheme: This scheme seeks to provide stipend of Rs 2500 to the youth of state