Forum AS

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

24th to 29th May, 2021

ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- 1. It calls to prohibit the utilization of genetic resources for our own benefit.
- 2. It is a legally binding treaty

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**: The Convention was signed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It is a legally binding treaty dedicated to promoting sustainable development.
 - o Objectives:
 - conservation of biological diversity,
 - sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
 - fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Statement 2 is correct: It is a legally binding treaty.

Source of the MCQ: Article

Q.2) Protected Planet Report is released by which of the following organisation?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme and International Union for Conservation of Nature
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- d) World wildlife Fund and World Nature Organisation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Released by:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Purpose:** The report takes stock of measures taken to fulfil the aims of Aichi Target 11. Aichi Target 11 called for protecting 17% of Earth's land and 10% of its marine environments by 2020.
- Key Findings:
 - o Increase in Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM): As many as 82% of countries and territories register an increase in the share of protected areas and OECM since 2010.
 - o **Since 2010, protected areas** covering almost a million square kilometers have been added to the global network. This area is greater than the land area of the Russian Federation.

o **Over the 10-year period, the greatest growth** in protected areas and OECMs has been in marine and coastal areas. Around 68% of the current network's area is less than 10 years old.

Read more: Protected Planet Report

- **Q.3) Govind Pashu Vihar National Park** was seen in news recently. In which of the following state the park is located?
- a) Gujarat
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: D Explanation:

Recently, the Uttarakhand High Court has reprimanded the State government for stopping some Van Gujjar families on their way to Govind Pashu Vihar National Park. The court held that their right to life is being violated by the authorities.

- The Van Gujjars, the nomadic pastoral community of the Uttarakhand Himalayas
- They pursue seasonal migration from the Terai-Bhabar and Siwalik region of Uttarakhand to the higher bugyals in the Western Himalayas in summer and vice versa in winter.

About Govind Pashu Vihar National Park:

- It is located in the Uttarkashi district of the state of Uttarakhand. The park lies in the higher reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- It was declared as a National Park in the year of 1990.
- The **Har-ki-dun valley** within the park is a known spot for trekking. Similarly, the **Ruinsara high altitude lake** is also popular as a tourist destination.
- The park creates an upper water catchment of **River Tons**. This river is a significant tributary of Yamuna River

Source: Down to Earth

Q.4) Consider the following paragraph

It is a national park located in Odisha. After Sundarbans, it is India's second-largest mangrove forest in India. It is said to house 70% of the country's estuarine or saltwater crocodiles. It is also a Ramsar site of UNESCO.

Which of the following national park is described in the paragraphs?

- a) Mukurthi National Park
- b) Simlipal National Park
- c) Galathea National Park
- d) Bhitarkanika National Park

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Mukurthi National Park – Tamil Nadu

Simlipal National Park - Odisha

Galathea National Park - Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Bhitarkanika National Park - Odisha

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Recently Cyclone Yaas caused fell down of nearly hundreds of trees in Bhitarkanika. The government is assessing the loss of fauna.

Source: Down to Earth

Q.5) TK Vishvanathan committee seen in news is related to:

- a) Right to privacy
- b) Hate speech
- c) Prison reforms
- d) Tele medicine

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The panel was formed after Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, was scrapped by the Supreme Court in 2015.
- You can read more about the committee here

Source: Article

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding De-notified tribes (DNT):

- 1. The term includes all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts of the British government
- 2. A majority of De-notified and nomadic communities are primarily patriarchal.
- 3. Kalelkar commission recommended that criminal tribes should be called de-notified communities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The term 'De-notified Tribes' stands for all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts, enforced by the British Raj between 1871 and 1947. These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified". A few of these communities which were listed as de-notified were also nomadic.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Like most of the communities in India, large majority of Denotified and nomadic communities are primarily patriarchal.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: The first Backward Class Commission was appointed in 1953 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kakasaheb Kalelkar. This Commission suggested that the erstwhile 'Criminal Tribes' should not be called 'Tribes' nor should the names 'Criminal' or 'Ex-Criminal' be attached to them. They could be called 'Denotified Communities'.

Source: Article

Q.7) Which of the following statement defines doctrine of colourable legislation?

- a) A legislature can't legislate something indirectly, if it's not possible to do so directly
- b) No law shall be passed against any caste, colour, creed, race, sex or religious sect
- c) Any legislation against the basic structure of the Constitution will be ultra vires
- d) Any proposed law should have a clear purpose and statement of reasons

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

• The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation says that what cannot be done directly, should also not be done indirectly. The doctrine is used in the cases to determine questions of competency to enact a law when a legislature oversteps its conferred power and legislate upon something indirectly which it can't do in a direct manner.

Source: Article

Q.8) Equator doesn't pass through which of the following country?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Democratic Republic of Congo
- c) Colombia
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Equator passes through 13 countries, 3 continents and 3 water bodies.

- Asia: Maldives, Indonesia, Kiribati (Oceania)
- **Africa**: Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia
- South America: Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil
- Water bodies: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean

Try and locate these on Atlas.

Q.9) Bogorad syndrome was in news recently. It is related to:

- a) Yellow fever
- b) Celiac disease
- c) Bell's Palsy
- d) Aortic Aneurysm

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Bogorad syndrome (crocodile tear syndrome):** It is a medical condition in which patients who are recovering from Bell's Palsy shed tears while eating or drinking.
- Bell's Palsy is a rare condition in which facial muscles suffer from a temporary weakness or paralysis. It is the result of compression or swelling of a nerve that controls the facial muscles, and can be caused by a viral infection.

Source: Article

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A primarily tribal herdsmen community
- 2. Famous for breeding Banni buffaloes
- 3. Their name means keeper of the animal stock

Which of the following tribe is being talked about in above statements?

- a) Angami
- b) Maldhari
- c) Khasi
- d) Gaddi

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Maldharis** are a tribal herdsmen community in Gujarat, India. The literal meaning of Maldhari is a keeper (dhari) of the animal stock (mal).
- **The Maldharis** have lived in the Gir National Park, in the Banni Grasslands Reserve area, for the past thousand years.
- **They have co-existed** with the lions which the Gir National Park was created to preserve, for these thousand years.
- **Maldhari** community breeds Banni Buffaloes, a species endemic to the region. The buffaloes are adaptive to Kutch's hot weather condition.

Source: Maldhari



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

- 1. It prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or death penalty
- 2. Act is gender-neutral
- 3. Burden of proof lies upon the prosecution

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct**: The Act prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or the death penalty. The Act provides a mandatory minimum punishment of three years.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: POCSO is gender neutral, meaning that crimes of this nature committed against children will be handled by this act regardless of the gender of the child.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Usually, in criminal cases, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution, and the guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. Under POCSO, however, there is a presumption that a person who is prosecuted for an offence has actually committed the offence, unless the contrary is proved (Section 29). Instead of "innocent until proven guilty", the court assumes that the accused is guilty once the prosecution lays the foundation of the case.

Source of the MCQ: Article

Q.2) DARPAN portal is related to:

- a) NGOs engaged in developmental activities
- b) Environment clearance for hydro-projects
- c) Resolution of complaints regarding GST
- d) Governance related problems

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- It is a platform that provides space for interface between Voluntary organisations/NGOs and key Government Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies, to start with.
 - o Later it is proposed to cover all Central Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies.
- This is a free facility offered by the NITI Aayog in association with National Informatics Centre to bring about greater partnership between government & voluntary sector and foster better transparency, efficiency and accountability.
- The NGO-DARPAN started out as an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, to create and promote a healthy partnership between VOs/NGOs and the Government of India.
- The Portal is managed at present by NITI Aayog

Source of the MCQ: Article

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding RFID/FASTag:

- 1. It has a passive RFID chip
- 2. Once it is affixed to a vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
- 3. FASTags are operated by National Payments Corporation of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct**: A FASTag has what is called a passive RFID chip as it does not contain its own battery. It is energized only when the beam from the scanner strikes it. At a toll plaza, when a vehicle comes within a certain radius, the scanner is able to send out the signals and read the tag which means, the identification code of the vehicle
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The FASTag sticker is vehicle specific, hence, once it is affixed on to a particular vehicle, it cannot be transferred to another vehicle.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) through its subsidiary Indian Highway Management Company Limited (IHMCL) sells and operates FASTag.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Competition Commission of India:

- 1. It ensures freedom of trade in Indian markets
- 2. It is a statutory body

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct**: It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Competition Commission of India has been established by the Central Government under the Competition Act 2002 (act was amended in 2007)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding TRIFED:

- 1. It is mainly concerned with development of minor forest produce
- 2. It is a statutory body
- 3. It works under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It mainly undertakes two functions viz. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) development and Retail Marketing and Development (creating a sustainable market and create business opportunities for tribal people)
- **Statement 2 is correct**: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was established in 1987, under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. Hence, it is a statutory body.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: It works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Source: Pib

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding National Mission on Cultural Mapping:

- 1. It aims to establish a national cultural workplace portal as a common information sharing platform for all stakeholders
- 2. E-commerce facility will also be provided to artists for direct marketing

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mission will establish National Cultural Work Place (NCWP). The NCWP shall be a fully equipped cultural portal which will serve as common interaction work place for all stake holders including artistes, institutions, NGOs and Ministry of Culture.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Mission aims at setting up e-commerce facility to provide various opportunities to artists for direct marketing, cutting out the middleman empowering traditional occupational communities.

Source: Article

Q.7) National Food Security Act (NFSA) is frequently in news. In this respect, consider the following statements:

- 1. Under NFSA, transportation of food grains to designated depots in states/UTs is the responsibility of Centre
- 2. Periodic social audits are mandatory under NFSA
- 3. The act legally entitles all rural population to receive subsidised food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) Only 1

- b) 1 and 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct: Under NFSA, Centre is responsible for allocation of required foodgrains to States/UTs, transportation of foodgrains up to designated depots in each State/UT and providing central assistance to States/UTs for delivery of foodgrains from designated Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns to the doorstep of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs)
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Under NFSA, social audit is mandatory to ensure transparency and accountability under TPDS.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The Act legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidised foodgrains.

Source: Article

Q.8) Consider the following statements on social media companies

- 1. They are defined as an intermediary under the provisions of the IT Act
- 2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) have the power to regulate digital media companies 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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Legally the social media companies are not considered as an intermediary. Under section 2W of the IT Act, the **definition of intermediary does not include Social media companies**. This section mentions Intermediaries like internet service providers, online auction sites, online marketplaces, etc. But the government **treats them as a intermediary**
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have the power to regulate digital media companies in India.
- The present new IT rules are framed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY). But the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** have the administration power over the rules not MeiTY.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding SeHAT OPD portal:

- 1. It is a patient to doctor system for the serving & veteran armed forces personnel of all three Services
- 2. Both e-Sanjeevani & SeHAT have been developed by CDAC

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct**: SeHAT OPD Portal aims to provide tele-medicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families of the three Services.
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Both portals have been developed by CDAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
 - e-Sanjeevani is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme. It seeks to connect all 1,50,000 HWCs using the hub-and-spoke model by December 2022.

Source: <u>SeHAT</u>

Q.10) Which amongst the following can become a beneficiary under the KIsan Credit Card Scheme?

- 1. Sharecroppers
- 2. Tenant Farmers
- 3. Dairy Farmers
- 4. Self Help Groups

Select your answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1,2 and 4 only
- c) 1,2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Kisan Credit Card(KCC) scheme was launched by the Government of India in 1998. It aims to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs as indicated below:

- To meet the short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops;
- Post-harvest expenses and Produce marketing loan;
- Consumption requirements of farmer household;
- Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
- Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.

Coverage: Small farmers, marginal farmers, sharecroppers, oral lessee and tenant farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are eligible for availing benefits under the scheme.

In 2020, the government included the dairy farmers in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) The term 'Accommodation syndrome' recently seen in news, it is related to:

- a) Racial discrimination
- b) Financial inclusion
- c) Religious intolerance
- d) Child sexual abuse

Correct Answer: D Explanation

• Child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome (CSAAS) is a syndrome proposed by Roland C. Summit in 1983 to describe how he believed sexually abused children responded to ongoing sexual abuse. He said children "learn to accept the situation and to survive. There is no way out, no place to run

Source of the MCQ: Article

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Kyasanur Forest disease

- 1. The disease primarily affects humans and monkeys.
- 2. There is no specific treatment for this disease.
- 3. A vaccine is available for this disease for use in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **The Kyasanur Forest disease** is caused by a Kyasanur Forest disease virus. The disease primarily affects humans and monkeys.
- **India:** The disease was first identified in the Kyasanur forest of Shimoga district in Karnataka during an investigation of monkey mortalities in 1957.
- **Symptoms:** The disease is characterized by chills, frontal headache, body ache, and high fever for five to 12 days with a case fatality rate of 3 to 5%.
- Transmission:
 - o Rodents, shrews, and monkeys are common hosts for KFDV after being bitten by an infected tick.
 - o Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey.
- **Diagnosis**: Diagnosis can be made in the early stage of illness by molecular detection by PCR or virus isolation from blood.
- **Treatment**: There is no specific treatment for KFD. A vaccine (Formalin inactivated KFDV vaccine) does exist for KFD and is used in endemic areas of India.
- Recently, a new point-of-care test has been developed for the rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).

Read more: **Kyasanur Forest disease**

Q.3) Agumbe often seen in news is a:

- a) A Near Earth Object named after a famous Indian scientist by NASA
- b) India's first indigenously developed semiconductor chip
- c) Deep underwater mammalian species discovered in Andaman Sea
- d) A newly recognized country in Africa

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

• Agumbe is a series of indigenously developed semiconductor chips launched by Bengaluru-based semiconductor manufacturing company Signalchip. These chips would be used in 4G/LTE and 5G NR Modem applications

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Whiteflies

- 1. Whiteflies are native to India.
- 2. These insects are beneficial for leaves and crops 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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Whiteflies are invasive species. Most of the whitefly species are native to the Caribbean islands or Central America. India: Around eight types of whitefly species are found in India. The first invasive whitefly was reported from Kerala in 1995. These species are now distributed throughout India except Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Whitefly species reduce the yield and also damage crops. Hence, they are considered as invasive species. These insects excrete sticky honeydew and cause the yellowing or death of leaves.

Read more about Whiteflies

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Yellow Fungus infections

- 1. This type of fungal infection generally does not occur in humans but in reptiles.
- 2. This type of fungus infection is less harmful compares to white and black fungal infections. 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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Yellow Fungus is also called mucor septic. It is a fungal infection that medical experts say generally does not occur in humans but in reptiles.
- Causes:
 - o Poor Hygiene

- o High levels of humidity beyond the 30-40% range
- o Old food and improper disposal also contribute to the growth of the fungus.
- o Excess use of steroids is also a possible reason in Covid-19 patients.

• Symptoms:

- o Symptoms of yellow fungus are laziness, loss of appetite, or no appetite at all and weight loss.
- Yellow fungus infection, unlike the two other infections, could be much more dangerous as it starts off internally. Thus, its diagnosis is very difficult.

Read more: Yellow fungus infection

Q.6) Consider the following statement regarding Mercury

- 1. Mercury is a naturally occurring element found in air, water and soil.
- 2. Minamata Convention protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

According to a recent study published in Nature Geoscience, Greenland's glacial meltwaters have unusually high levels of mercury.

Key Findings of the study:

- **Researchers** found high concentrations of mercury in the water bodies fed by the Greenland Ice Sheet.
- The mercury level was almost ten times the volume of mercury found in normal rivers.
- The mercury level was also similar to that found in the polluted inland rivers of China.

About Mercury:

- Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found in found in air, water and soil.
- Mercury is considered by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury and its compounds.

Source: Down To Earth

- Q.7) Mylab Coviself was seen in news recently. Which of the following correctly describes it?
- a) It is list of essential drugs provided to individuals for the Covid-19 treatment
- b) It is India's first Covid-19 self-testing kit approved recently by the ICMR
- c) It is world's first equipment to test whether a person has taken vaccine or not.
- d) It is a laboratory equipment that provides instant result for Covid-19 infections.

Correct Answer: B Explanation:

- It is **India's first Covid-19 self-testing kit** approved recently by the ICMR.
- This means anyone can collect their own nasal sample and test it for SARS-CoV-2.
- Such a self-test kit was first approved in **the US** last November. Similar kits have been approved in **Europe and South Korea too.**
- It is Developed by MyLab Discovery Solutions, a Pune-based molecular company.
- It uses a rapid antigen test, in which a nasal swab sample is tested for the virus and gives results within 15 minutes.

Source: Indian Express.

Q.8) Consider the following statements on paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome (PIMS-TS)

- 1. It is a rare condition associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection
- 2. The source of this syndrome is not known so far.

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

Correct Anwer : C Explanation:

- PIMS-TS is also known as a multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). It is a rare condition associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection that was first defined in April 2020.
- Caused by: It is not known what triggers the condition. But it is thought to be a rare immune overreaction that occurs in children approximately four to six weeks after mild or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Symptoms: It includes fever, rash, eye infection, and gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. diarrhoea, stomach ache, nausea). In some rare cases, the condition can lead to multiorgan failure.
- Diagnosis: Currently, MIS-C is diagnosed based on symptoms together with laboratory tests that look for signs of inflammation in the body.
- Treatment: Treatments currently include anti-coagulation to curb blood clotting, IV immunoglobulin and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Read more: paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome(PIMS-TS)

Q.9) Consider the following statement on Significant social media intermediaries under the Information Technology Rules, 2021

- 1. Under the rules, Significant social media intermediaries include social media platforms that have a limited user base
- 2. Significant social media intermediaries should have a physical contact address 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

Correct Answer: B Explanation:

- Under the IT rules 2021, Social media platforms are classified into two categories
 - o **Social media intermediaries** Platforms that have a limited user base.
 - o **Significant social media intermediaries** These are the platforms with a large user base.
- The **significant social media intermediaries** have to follow few additional measures like:
 - o These platforms should have a physical contact address in India.
 - o Appointing a Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Contact Person, and a Resident Grievance Officer in India. All of them should be Indian Residents.

Read more: Information Technology Rules, 2021

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Biomass:

- 1. Biogas is produced when biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, etc is subjected to Anaerobic digestion
- 2. Co-firing is an efficient way of converting biomass to electricity
- 3. Biomass is carbon-neutral

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1** is **correct**: Biogas is produced when bio-degradable organic materials/wastes such as cattle-dung, biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, industry, poultry droppings, night soil and municipals wastes are subjected to a scientific process, called Anaerobic Digestion (A.D.) in a Biogas Plant
- **Statement 2 is correct**: Co-firing is a low-cost option for efficiently and cleanly converting biomass to electricity. It adds biomass as a partial substitute fuel in high-efficiency coal boilers.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: Burning either fossil fuels or biomass releases carbon dioxide (CO2), a greenhouse gas. However, the plants that are the source of biomass for energy capture almost the same amount of CO2 through photosynthesis while growing as is released when biomass is burned, which can make biomass a carbon-neutral energy source.

Source: Biomass

- **Q.11) Amphotericin-B** was some time seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?
- a) It is a new multi drug resistant bacteria identified in wild Snakes
- b) It is an anti-fungal medicine used for treating black, white and yellow fungal infections
- c) It is a new drug developed to treat severe conditions of Covid-19

d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Antifungal drug Amphotericin-B is being considered as a primary treatment of yellow fungus. The same injection is being used currently to treat black or white fungus cases in the country.

Source: Times of India

Q.12) Consider the following statements on Biomass

- 1. These are organic material that comes from plants and animals.
- 2. Biomass power & cogeneration programme is implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

• **Biomass** is a renewable organic material that comes from plants and animals. It can be used as an energy source.

Page Break

- Biomass power & cogeneration programme is initiated by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The programme aims towards efficient utilization of biomass, bagasse based cogeneration in sugar mills and biomass power generation
- Recently, The Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on the use of Biomass in thermal power plants.

Read more: National Mission on the use of Biomass in thermal power plants

Q.13) Tutsi, a term often seen in news, is related to:

- a) Hamidian massacre
- b) Rwandan Genocide
- c) Israel-Palestine conflict
- d) Lebanon war

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Tutsi is an ethnic group, whose members live within Rwanda and Burundi
- The Tutsi formed the traditional aristocratic minority in both countries, constituting about 9% and 14% of the population, respectively. The Tutsis' numbers in Rwanda were greatly reduced by a government-inspired genocidal campaign (Rwandan genocide) against them in 1994, however

Source: Rwandan genocide

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Genetic modification (GM) technology allows the transfer of genes for specific traits between species.
- 2. GM Mustard is the only GM crop approved 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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)** can be defined as organisms (i.e. plants, animals or microorganisms) in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. Genetic modification (GM) technology allows the transfer of genes for specific traits between species.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Bt Cotton** is the only GM crop introduced in India in 2002. Bt brinjal was recommended for commercialisation in October 2009, after it completed regulatory evaluation in seven years, and is still under moratorium.



GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE

Q.1) Arrange the following seas in anticlockwise direction:

- 1. Caspian Sea
- 2. Mediterranean Sea
- 3. Black Sea
- 4. Red Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 4-3-2-1
- b) 4-2-3-1
- c) 1-3-2-4
- d) 1-2-4-3

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

• Please refer this link for a detailed representation of all these seas on a map.

Source: Article

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Diammonium Phosphate (DAP):

- 1. Maximum retail price for urea is controlled by the government while it is decontrolled for DAP
- 2. Nitrogen is a majority component in DAP
- 3. Without DAP, plants cannot grow to their normal size or will take too long to mature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**: While, the MRP for urea is controlled/fixed by the government, it is decontrolled for other fertilizers including DAP, MOP, etc.
 - o The maximum retail price (MRP) of urea is currently fixed at Rs 5,378 per tonne or Rs 242 for a 45-kg bag. Since companies have to sell at this controlled rate (fixed MRP), the subsidy is variable. It means subsidy depends upon the market price or costing of Urea. Government has to pay the difference between controlled price and market price.
 - o In other fertilizers, the government only gives a fixed per-tonne subsidy. This means the subsidy is fixed, while the MRPs are variable. Thus, MRP of **Decontrolled fertilizers is way above urea** MRP and attract lower subsidy. For some of the non-urea fertilizers, government launched nutrient-based subsidy or NBS scheme.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: The fertilizer is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root establishment and development. It contains 46% P and 18% nitrogen (N).

• **Statement 3 is correct**: Without DAP, the plants cannot grow to their normal size or will take too long to mature.

Source of the MCQ: Article

Q.3) Arrange the following from North to South:

- 1. Celebes sea
- 2. Banda Sea
- 3. Arafura Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 3-2-1
- b) 1-2-3
- c) 2-1-3
- d) 1-3-2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Correct order from North to South is: Celebes Sea Banda Sea Arafura Sea
- **Q.4)** Very severe cyclone Yaas will soon hit north Odisha coast. It's has been named by which of the following countries?
- a) India
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Oman
- d) Indonesia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The name 'Yaas' was suggested by Oman and refers to a tree with good fragrance and in English, the word is similar to Jasmine.

India has, so far, proposed the names Gati (speed), Tej (speed), Marasu (musical instrument in Tamil), Aag (fire), Jhar (storm), Ghurni (whirlpool), Vega (speed) and Neer (water).

The next cyclone—after Yaas—is likely to be named Gulab, suggested by Pakistan.

Q.5) Arrange the following islands from left to right:

- 1. Sulawesi
- 2. Java
- 3. Kalimantan
- 4. Sumatra

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1-2-3-4
- b) 4-3-2-1
- c) 1-2-4-3
- d) 4-2-3-1

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

• Refer this link for a detailed representation of above islands on a map.

Q.6) Banni grasslands was seen in news recently. It is located in which of the following states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Maldhari community filed a case against the encroachment in the ecologically-sensitive Banni grassland in May, 2018. Recently, NGT has ordered to remove all the encroachments within six months from Gujarat's Banni grasslands. Also, the NGT directed a joint committee to prepare an action plan.

- Banni grassland is spread over 2,618 kilometre and account for almost 45 per cent of the pastures in Gujarat.
- It comprises 48 hamlets / villages organised into 19 panchayats, with a population of about 40,000.
- Two ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands, are juxtaposed in Banni.
- Maldhari community breeds Banni Buffaloes, a species endemic to the region. The buffaloes are adaptive to Kutch's hot weather conditions

Source: Down To Earth

Q.7) Consider the following pairs regarding Geographical Indication (GI) certified products

Agricultural product : State 1. Navara Rice : Kerala

2. Jardalu mango : Bihar

3. Bydagi Chilli : Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correct?

a) 1 and 2

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 3

d) All of the above

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Agricultural product: State

Navara Rice : KeralaZardalu mango: BiharBydagi Chilli : Karnataka

Recently Bihar government has partnered with the Department of Posts to supply "Shahi Lichi" and "Zardalu Mango" to the people at doorstep.

Source: PIB

Q.8) Arrange the following in a clockwise direction:

- 1. Gulf of Suez
- 2. Dead Sea
- 3. Gulf of Aqaba
- 4. Sea of Galilee

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 2-4-3-1
- b) 1-4-2-3
- c) 3-2-4-1
- d) 4-1-3-2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

• Please refer to this link

Q.9) The Kabini river is a tributary of which of the following river?

- a) Vaigai
- b) Cauvery
- c) Godavari
- d) Krishna

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Cauvery River rises at Talakaveri on the Brahmagiri range in the Western Ghats in Karnataka and flows for about 800 km before its outfall into the Bay of Bengal.
- The important tributaries joining the Cauvery are Harangi, Hemavati, **Kabini,** Suvarnavathi and Bhavani.

Source: Article

Q.10) Louvre museum was seen in news recently. In which of the following country the museum is located in?

- a) Germany
- b) France
- c) The United Kingdom
- d) Australia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is the world's largest art museum, based in Paris.
- It is also the world's most visited museum.
- It is **home to the Mona Lisa**, a classic that cultural organisations and art lovers across the world would love to exhibit.
- Recently Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre museum in its 228-year history.

Source: Indian Express

ECONOMY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the FDI inflows in Financial Year 2020-21

- 1. Maharashtra remained the top recipient of FDI
- 2. Computer software and hardware remained as the top sector in terms of FDI inflow.

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently Commerce Ministry released the data on the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment Inflow) in India for the Financial Year 2020-21.

Key highlights of the data:

- **India** has received an FDI of \$81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21. This is 10% higher than \$74.39 billion received in 2019-20.
- The Largest Source of FDI: Singapore remained the largest source of FDI in India for the third consecutive year with a share of 29%. It was followed by the US with a 23% share and Mauritius with 9%.
- Saudi Arabia is the top investor in terms of percentage increase during FY21. It invested \$2.8 billion in comparison to US\$ 89.93 million reported in 2019-20.
- **States:** Gujarat was the top recipient of FDI among states with a 37% share of total FDI equity inflows. It was followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka with 27% and 13%.
- **Sectors**: Computer software and hardware emerged as the top sector in FY21 with around 44% of the total FDI equity inflow. It was followed by construction and infrastructure-related activities at 13% and services sector with 8%.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Which one of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) FDI limit in the Insurance Sector has increased to 74% from 49%.
- b) In Print Media, FDI is prohibited in India
- c) 100 per cent FDI is permitted in the defence sector.
- d) In Coal Mining 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation Option b is incorrect. 26% FDI is permitted in print media under government route.

The Finance Ministry notified the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2021. These rules will apply to all insurers irrespective of the stake held by the foreign partner. These rules will give an effect to increased FDI limit in the Insurance Sector to 74% from 49%. Read more

In Coal Mining 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.

In defence sector 100 per cent FDI is permitted. Centre allowed up to 74% FDI in defence sector under automatic route and above that under government route.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the monetary policy framework of India:

- 1. Reserve Bank of India has the legislative mandate to operate the monetary policy framework of the country.
- 2. The inflation target to be set by the Reserve Bank in consultation with Scheduled Commercial Banks, once in every five years.

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act explicitly provides the legislative mandate to the Reserve Bank to operate the monetary policy framework of the country.

The framework aims at setting the policy (repo) rate based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation; and modulation of liquidity conditions to anchor money market rates at or around the repo rate. Repo rate changes transmit through the money market to the entire the financial system, which, in turn, influences aggregate demand – a key determinant of inflation and growth.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

The Centre has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points for the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI for the coming five years; April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with reference to Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).

- 1. It buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks only.
- 2. ARCs are constituted under The RBI Act.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution. They will buy the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions.

(Statement 1 is incorrect)

They will clean up the balance sheets of banks and financial institutions. This helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities.

Legal Basis: Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**

Regulated by: ARCs function under the supervision and control of the Reserve Bank of India.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ORGANISATIONS

- **Q.1) Rome Declaration** was seen in news recently. In this regard which of the following statements is correct?
- a) It aims to reduce nuclear weapons among US and USSR
- b) The declaration aims to achieve universal access to digital tools
- c) The declaration aims to prevent future health crisis
- d) It aims to reduce industrial pollution globally to achieve Paris Climate Agreement targets

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Rome Declaration was adopted at the Global Health Summit 2021.
- **Principles**: The declaration is made up of 16 mutually agreed principles. These principles aim at guiding joint action to prevent future health crises and to build a safer, fairer and more equitable and sustainable world.

Key Features of the Rome Declaration:

- **Support** and enhance the existing multilateral health architecture.
- **Promote** the multilateral trading system and global supply chains related to Health emergencies,
- **Enable** equitable, affordable, timely global access to high-quality, safe, effective prevention, detection and response tools.

Read more: Rome Declaration

- Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding BRICS Astronomy Working Group
- 1. The group was established along with the BRICS.
- 2. All BRICS members participated in the 7th meeting of BRICS Astronomy Working Group.
- 3. Group has recommended networking of telescopes in member countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Astronomy was established as one of five thematic science areas within BRICS at a ministerial meeting held in South Africa in 2014. Formed in: The BRICS Astronomy Working Group(BAWG) established in 2015.

Statement 2 is correct. 7th meeting of group witnessed participation from all five BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – with more than 50 participants, including researchers, academicians and government officials.

Statement 3 is correct. The BRICS Astronomy Working Group has recommended networking of telescopes in member countries and creating a regional data network.

Q.3) Bantustan seen in news is related to:

- a) Syrian refugee crisis
- b) Israel-Palestine conflict
- c) Apartheid policy
- d) Yemeni civil war

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

• A Bantustan was a territory that the National Party administration of South Africa set aside for black inhabitants of South Africa and South West Africa, as part of its policy of apartheid

Source: Article

Q.4) 17+1 initiative seen in news is a:

- a) Vaccine research and development alliance by WHO
- b) China-led forum including Central European countries
- c) A multilateral process led by Arctic nations
- d) Space exploration mission led by NASA

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The 17+1 cooperation forum is a China-led initiative founded in the year 2012.
- **Aim**: To expand cooperation between China and the Central and Eastern European (CEE) member countries. This is done through investments and trade for the development of the CEE region.
- The initiative also focuses on infrastructure projects such as bridges, motorways, railway lines and the modernisation of ports in the member states.
- **Significance**: The initiative is largely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road initiative (BRI).

Source: <u>17+1</u>

Q.5) Which of the following countries is/are a member(s) of BIMSTEC?

- 1. Myanmar
- 2. Indonesia
- 3. Thailand

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

• Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC): Headquartered in Dhaka, BIMSTEC is an inter-regional grouping that seeks to foster regional and economic cooperation among nations in the littoral and adjacent areas

of the Bay of Bengal — India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

Q.6). State of Global Climate report is released by:

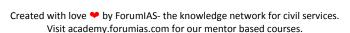
- a) UNFCCC
- b) WMO
- c) UNEP
- d) IPCC

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

• State of Global Climate report is released annually by World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Source: Article



POLITY

Q.1) Which of the following rights is/are a part of Article 21 of the Constitution of India?

- 1. Right to family pension
- 2. Right to sleep
- 3. Right to travel abroad

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Supreme Court in its various judgements has declared all of the above rights as part of Article 21
 - o Right to family pension
 - o Right to sleep
 - o Right to sleep
 - o Right to free legal aid
 - o Right to health
 - o Right to Shelter
 - o Right to livelihood
 - o Right to fair trial etc
- Please refer to Article 21 under Fundamental rights chapter in Laxmikanth's polity book for a detailed list of these rights.

Source: Article

- Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Lok Adalats
- 1. Lok Adalats are judicial Bodies.
- 2. Any case pending before the Court cannot be referred to the Lok Adalat.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

Nature of Cases to be Referred to Lok Adalat

1. Any case pending before any court.

2. Any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before the court.

Provided that any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.



HISTORY/ART/CULTURE

- Q.1) Which of the following explanation represents Reclining Buddha in Buddhism?
- a) It represents his first Sermon in Saranath
- b) It represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana.
- c) It represents the birth of Buddha at Lumbini
- d) It represents the enlightenment of Buddha at Bodhgaya

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: India's largest statue of the Reclining Buddha was to have been installed at Bodh Gaya. But, due to Covid-19 India called off the ceremony.

- A reclining Buddha statue or image represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana.
- Parinirvana is the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls.
- The Buddha's death came when he was 80 years old, in a state of meditation, in Kushinagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh
- The Reclining Buddha was first depicted in Gandhara art. It peaked during the Kushana period from the first to the fifth centuries AD.
- The largest Reclining Buddha in the world is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar

Source: The Indian Express

Q.2) Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan was seen in news recently. Which of the following is the main objective of the program?

- a) It is a nationwide cultural awareness programme
- b) It is a database on demography of cultural assets and resources
- c) It is a nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme
- d) It is a training programme for school dropout women in traditional skills

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan is a part of **National Mission on Cultural Mapping**

About National Mission on Cultural Mapping:

- The mission was proposed in 2015 but was officially approved in 2017.
- It seeks to envision and address the necessity of **preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage.** It also aims to convert the vast and widespread cultural canvass of India into an objective cultural mapping.
- Under this Mission, there are three important objectives as follows:
 - To undertake the cultural mapping (i.e. database of cultural assets and resources) via running a nationwide cultural awareness programme called **Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan** (National Cultural Awareness Abhiyan).
 - To run a Nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme called **Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan**

• Lastly, to establish a **National Cultural Working Place** (NCWP) portal. It would be a Centralised Transactional Web Portal with a database and demography of cultural assets and resources including all art forms and artists.

