

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

23rd to 28th Aug, 2021

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 23rd to 28th Aug, 2021

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

Q1) Consider the following statements regarding WEP Nxt:

1. It will focus on India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
2. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Microsoft.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Connect Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** WEP Nxt is the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). It will be working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NITI Aayog and Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) called "WEP Nxt".

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding SAMRIDH Scheme:

1. It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to secure investments for scaling their business.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the SAMRIDH Scheme.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding MANTHAN Hackathon-2021

1. It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Defence

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields such as Fake Content Detection, Cybercrime, Image, Video and Data Analytics, etc.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.

Read more: [MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE and BPR&D launched MANTHAN- 2021 hackathon](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm:**

1. It is Centrally Sector Scheme that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
2. The scheme offers price assurance to the farmers

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
- **Statement 2 is correct:** if the market is volatile, then the Centre will pay the difference in price to the farmers through direct benefit transfer

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statement regarding Financial Management Index:

1. It is published by Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Social Audit is one of the key parameter to judge the efficiency of state performance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect- It is released by Ministry of Rural Development
About Financial management Index:

- **Aim:** To rank states on efficient management of financial resources allocated for implementing rural development programmes.

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- **Parameters:** The index will rank the States on the basis of following parameters:
 - Preparation of annual plan and projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year;
 - Expeditious release of State's share;
 - Timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates;
 - Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT);
 - Internal Audit and
 - Social Audit.
- **Significance:** The performance of the States in the Index would promote the spirit of competitive, cooperative federalism amongst States.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Flexibilisation Scheme:

1. Scheme allows power generation companies to meet their supply obligations via renewable power instead of thermal power alone.
2. Under the scheme any power generating company having coal/lignite/gas-based thermal generating station may establish or procure renewable energy generating capacity

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

About Flexibilisation Scheme:

Flexibilisation Scheme was launched by the Government of India in the year 2018.

The scheme allows power generation companies to meet their supply obligations via renewable power instead of thermal power alone.

Under the scheme, any power generating company having coal/lignite/gas-based thermal generating stations may establish or procure renewable energy generating capacity anywhere in the country, either at existing stations or at new locations.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Jan Shikshan Sansthan(JSS) Scheme

1. Scheme is currently run by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It aims to provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to both non-literate and neo-literates.
3. The scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct

About Jan Shikshan Sansthan(JSS) Scheme:

- **The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)** was formerly known as the Shramik Vidyapeeth scheme. The scheme was launched in 1967 and was renamed as Jan Shikshan Sansthan in 2000.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in 2018.
- **Mandate:** To provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to non-literate, neo-literates, persons with a rudimentary level of education up to 8th and school drop-outs up to 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years.
- **Target Group:** The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities and other backward sections of the society.
- **Implementation:** The scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.
- **At present,** 233 JSSs in 25 States and 3 Union Territories are functional. The annual coverage of the beneficiaries is around 4 lakh, out of which 85% are women.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Which of the following is the objective of Ujjwala scheme:

- a) It aims to provide electricity to every household by 2022
- b) It provides financial assistance to revive power distribution companies
- c) It aims to provide free LPG connection to poor households
- d) It aims to provide immunization to children and pregnant women

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

About Ujjwala

Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Aim: To replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).

Objective of the scheme: a) Empower women and protect their health b) Reduce the serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuel c) Reduce the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel and d) To prevent young children from significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution.

Source [The Hindu](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding 'Ubharte Sitaare' Alternative Investment Fund:

1. It aims to provide debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs.
2. The fund has been set up jointly by NABARD in collaboration with SBI

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**

About 'Ubharte Sitaare' Alternative Investment Fund:

- **Aim:** To provide debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs as well as providing them with the required technological support to make their businesses more competitive.
- **Setup by:** The fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Yuktdhara Portal:

1. The portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
2. Portal utilizes Bhuvan for its purposes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

About Yuktdhara Portal:

- **Yuktdhara** is a geospatial planning portal under [Bhuvan](#).
- **Purpose:** The portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
- **Developed by:** The portal is a culmination of joint efforts of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Name:** The name of the portal is very apt as the word 'Yukt' is derived from Yojanam, indicates the planning and 'Dhara' indicates the flow.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding National Monetisation Pipeline:

1. One of its objectives is to unlock the value of investments in brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term capital.
2. The top three sectors identified for asset monetisation include railways, airports and coal mining.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About National Monetisation Pipeline:

Prepared by: It was prepared by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.

Note: Asset monetisation consists of a limited period transfer of performing assets (or disposing of non-strategic / underperforming assets) to unlock "idle" capital and reinvesting it in other assets or projects that deliver improved or additional benefits.

Objectives:

- To unlock the value of investments in brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term capital, which can thereafter be leveraged for public investments.
 - **A brownfield investment** is a form of investment in which a company or government entity purchases or leases existing production facilities to launch a new production activity.
- To enable 'Infrastructure Creation through Monetisation' wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statement regarding National Digital Health Mission:

1. It is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers
2. Under the initiative a unique health Id with 12 digits will be created for each individual

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: It creates 14-digit Unique health Id for each individual unlike Aadhaar which is a 12-digit unique Id

About NDHM:

- It is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers by bringing them together and connecting them in an integrated digital health infrastructure.
- **Components:** The mission comprises six key building blocks or digital systems namely HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy & telemedicine.
- **Health Id:** It is a 14-digit serial number which will be generated for each individual. The Id will be a repository of all health-related information of a person such as medical tests, previous prescriptions, diagnosis, treatments and all historical health records.
- **Implementation:** The National Health Authority (NHA) would design, build, roll-out and implement the mission.

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Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Operation “Devi Shakti” in news is related to

- To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from Afghanistan following Taliban takeover
- To evacuate Indian citizens, fleeing from Libyan Civil War
- To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from conflict zone during Lebanon war
- To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from Yemen during 2015 Yemen crisis

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Project Bachpan:

- The project aims to eradicate the menace of child malnutrition in and around the surrounding areas of National Coalfields Limited.
- It is an initiative launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect

About Project Bachpan:

- Project Bachpan** was launched based on the MoU signed between Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and Singrauli District Administration, Madhya Pradesh.
- Aim:** The project aims to eradicate the menace of child malnutrition in and around the surrounding areas of NCL.
- Under the Project**, nutritional needs of more than 260 undernourished children will be taken care of. This will ensure the malnourished children’s good health and wellbeing

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue
- It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) only

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Supreme Court recently stated that the investigation agencies (CBI, ED) should not keep the “sword hanging” over the accused and there must be **time-bound completion of investigations**.

About Enforcement Directorate

- Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- On 1 May 1956, an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed, in the Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as ‘Enforcement Directorate’.
- It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws
 - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
 - The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Read more: [CBI, ED can't keep sword hanging over accused: Supreme Court](#)

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International relations

Q.1) Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi were sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains them?

- a) Tribes in Afghanistan
- b) Newly discovered methane deposits in Iran
- c) Islands of Maldives
- d) New species of frogs

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, India and Maldives have signed a pact for the construction of a \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project.

The project involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

Read more: [What signing of the \\$500m India-Maldives mega-infra project means](#)

Q.2) Incel Movement was seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly explains the movement?

- a) It is a movement that support the local population to fight against western countries and to become independent like the Taliban
- b) It is a movement of men which have a deep resentment towards both women and other men who are sexually active.
- c) It is a movement that oppose any actions that degrade environment.
- d) It is a movement that is against the technological equipments and they support old traditional method to improve people to people connectivity.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Experts have warned that the 'incel' movement is slowly becoming a threat to law and order.

- The movement came into the spotlight yet again in the UK's Plymouth, where a 22-year-old man shot dead five people, including a toddler.

About Incel Movement:

- Incels are a large online community of men who describe themselves as "involuntary celibates". (Celibates means a person who abstains from marriage and sexual relations).
- Men who are part of this movement have a deep resentment towards both women and other men who are sexually active.
- They blame women for their own lack of sexual and social status. Moreover, an extreme section of Incels even advocates violence against women.

Read more: [What is the incel movement?](#)

Q.3) Konkan exercise, in news, held between India & which of the following countries

- a) USA
- b) Japan
- c) UK
- d) Australia

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Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Source: [HT](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification:

1. legally binding international agreement which links environment and development to sustainable land management
2. Desertification is a type of land degradation in which the biological productivity of land is lost due to natural processes only

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

About UNCCD:

- It was established in 1994
- It is the **sole legally binding international agreement** linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dryland, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.
- The UNCCD collaborates closely with the other **two Rio Conventions– The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- **India** for the first time hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (**COP-14**) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statement regarding Regional Economic Cooperation Council:

1. The 37th ASEAN Summit led to emergence of RCEP which will be world's largest trading bloc
2. Apart from ASEAN members USA, Japan and Australia are its key member

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

About RCEP:

- The 37th ASEAN Summit led to the emergence of RCEP.
- **Members:** It consists of 16 members, including 10 members from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.
- Members of the RCEP make up nearly a third of the world's population and account for 29% of global gross domestic product (GDP)
- It aims to eliminate tariffs on import in the next 20 years. It also includes provisions on intellectual property, telecommunications, financial services, e-commerce and professional services.
- Negotiations over an RCEP deal began in 2012. **India** was also part of the negotiations, but it **pulled out** in 2019 over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Oslo Accords was recently seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains the accord?

- a) These are the agreements signed between the US and the Taliban regarding the withdrawal of US military
- b) These are the series of agreements signed between developing countries to reduce nuclear weapon arsenal
- c) These are the agreements between ISIS and the Taliban to spread Islamic rule in the entire West Asia region
- d) These are series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- August 20, 2021 marks 28 years since the Oslo I Accord was finalized and signed after multiple rounds of intense secret negotiations, in a bid to advance a lasting peace process for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Oslo Accords

Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.

- Oslo I (1993) is formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP).
- The accord was the result of secret negotiations facilitated by then-US president Bill Clinton, and later followed up in 1995 by the Oslo II Accord.
- Oslo Accords were heralded by many as the closest to ever truly solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.7) Exercise Indradhanush is a joint bilateral exercise between India and?

- a) UK
- b) Australia
- c) France
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

It is a joint bilateral air exercise between India and the UK started in 2006.

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding World water week 2021

1. The world water week is hosted and conducted by UN-Water
2. The theme for 2021 is Building Resilience Faster.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) recently hosted a Meet & Mingle session on 'Integrated River Basin Management(IRBM): Stakeholder Engagement on the Stockholm World Water Week 2021.

- World Water Week is the leading annual global event for concretely addressing the planet's major water issues. The world water week is **hosted and conducted by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**.
- For 2021, World Water Week is being held entirely online.
- The theme for 2021 is **Building Resilience Faster**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statement regarding The World Climate and Security report 2020:

1. It has been published by World Economic Forum
2. According to the report, forced displacement and scale of natural disasters would decrease by 2040

Which of the following statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **Arctic Council**:

1. Ottawa declaration led to establishment of Arctic Council
2. While China is an associate member, India has been its Observer

Which of the following is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect- Both India and China are its observer member

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following pairs of India's evacuation mission

1. Operation Devi Shakti - Afghanistan
2. Operation Safe Homecoming – Nepal
3. Operation Sukoon - Lebanon

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India has given a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. It has called the operation as 'Operation Devi Shakti'.

Operation Safe Homecoming was performed in Libya during the Libyan Civil war

Read more: [India's evacuation mission from Afghanistan named "Operation Devi Shakti"](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statement regarding International Solar Alliance:

1. It is an intergovernmental body registered with United Nation
2. It is open only for the countries which lies between two tropics

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: the recent amendment to ISA charter has made it open to all the member countries of ISA

About ISA:

- It is an **intergovernmental body** registered with **the United Nations** under Article 102 of the UN Charter.

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- The ISA is open to 122 countries, most of them located between the **Tropics of Cancer** and **Capricorn**.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries to address their special energy needs.
- It is a treaty-based organization working to create a global market system to tap the benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Which among the following has released the “**The Climate Crisis Is a Child’s Rights Crisis**”?

- a) IUCN and UNEP
- b) UNICEF and UNEP
- c) UNICEF and Fridays for Future
- d) World bank and WEF

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Source: [Article](#).

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding UNHRC

1. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
2. Its provisions are binding on the member countries
3. India, is the member of UNHRC

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

About UNHRC [UNHRC](#)

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.15) 1988 Sanctions Committee sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) The sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council against Taliban
- b) To monitor and implement the arms embargo on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- c) to oversee the UN sanctions imposed against the Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programme.
- d) To monitor the implementation of the resolution, which requested countries to implement a wide range of counter-terrorism measures

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Science and Technology

Q.1) Which of the following is/are applications of **Facial Recognition Technology**?

1. Better identification of criminals
2. Biometric attendance at companies
3. Student authentication mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Chikungunya disease

1. It is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the mosquitoes
2. At present, there is no vaccine to treat/prevent Chikungunya disease

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Chikungunya virus is most often spread to people by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These are the same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Presently, There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Chikungunya virus infection.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Zycov-D vaccine**

1. It is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.
2. The vaccine is an intradermal vaccine which means it is applied using a 'needle-free injector'.
3. Zycov-D will be given in single dose

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI's) has granted emergency approval for Zycov-D vaccine.

About Zycov-D:

- **Zycov-D** is a DNA plasmid-based Covid-19 vaccine developed by Zycov Cadilla Group in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under the '[Mission COVID Suraksha](#)'.
- **It is the world's first** and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.
- **The vaccine is an** intradermal vaccine which means it is applied using a 'needle-free injector'.
- **The vaccine is to be administered** in humans, including Children and adults 12 years and above.
- **Unlike other Covid-19 vaccines** which are given in two doses, Zycov-D will be given in three doses with an interval of 28 days between each dose.

Read more: [Zyudus Cadila vaccine gets emergency nod](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **phagocytosis**

1. It is a process by which the immune cells ingest and destroy foreign and damaged cells
2. The phagocyte may be a free-living one-celled organism or one of the body cells

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

A new study has identified for the first time that specialised immune cells (phagocytic cells) exist in certain varieties of sea corals and anemones. These cells help understand how the **organisms protect themselves from viruses and bacteria** in the marine ecosystem.

What is phagocytosis?

- Immune cells ingest and destroy foreign and damaged cells through a process called phagocytosis.
- The phagocyte may be a free-living one-celled organism, such as an amoeba, or one of the body cells, such as a white blood cell.
- In some forms of animal life, such as amoebas and sponges, phagocytosis is a means of feeding.
- In higher animals, phagocytosis is chiefly a defensive reaction against infection and invasion of the body by foreign substances (antigens).

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **mRNA vaccines:**

1. They use live viruses to trigger an immune response in the body.
2. mRNA Vaccines are stable at high temperatures, making packaging and distribution easy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are incorrect.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: Traditional vaccines perform this task** by introducing a dead, inactive or modified portion of a virus into our body so that our immune system can learn to recognize and fight this foreign invader. **On the other hand,** mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine. They don't use live viruses to trigger an immune response. Instead, they supply mRNA that instructs our cells to make a version of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that will trigger an immune response. Once triggered, the body will make antibodies. These antibodies will help to fight the infection if the real virus enters the body in the future.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** mRNA Vaccines are not as stable at high temperatures, making packaging and distribution difficult.

Source: [Article](#)

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Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statement regarding **Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas** of India:

1. It has been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
2. The report highlighted that rainfed farming land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas of India is been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
- **Statement 2 is correct:** According to the report, agriculture unirrigated land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, sometimes in news, is located in which of the following states?

- a) Mizoram
- b) Manipur
- c) Assam
- d) Nagaland

Correct Answer C

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Zoological survey of India

1. Its objective is to promote survey, exploration, research of faunal diversity of India
2. Its headquarter is in New Delhi

Which of the following is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 correct:
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Its headquarter is in Kolkata

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **fishing cat**

1. It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
2. It is the state animal of Jharkhand.
3. It is listed as “vulnerable (VU)” under the IUCN red list

Which of the above statements 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: C

Explanation:

Around 87% of world’s wetland ecosystem have been lost due to anthropogenic activities threatening wildlife species such as fishing cat.

About Fishing Cat:

- The fishing cat is one of only two animals among the 40 odd members of the cat family which can survive in wet landscape
- It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
- Fishing cat has double-layered coat which keeps its skin from getting wet.
- The fishing cat is the **state animal of West Bengal.**
- **Conservation status:**
 - **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
 - **IUCN status:** It is listed as “vulnerable (VU)” under IUCN red list
 - **CITES status:** The fishing cat is included on CITES **Appendix II**

Read more: [Meet the fishing cat: Protecting this shy species will save our precious wetlands](#)

Q.5) Acetabularia jalakanyakae sometimes seen in news is a type of?

- a) Fish
- b) Algae
- c) Frog
- d) Weed

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Acetabularia jalakanyakae is a bright green algae with a size as small as 20 to 40 mm.
- This algae species is named after the word ‘jalakanyaka’ which means ‘goddess of oceans’ or ‘mermaid’ in the Sanskrit language.
- It is the first species of the genus Acetabularia discovered in India.

Source: [Tribune](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Forum for Decarbonizing Transport:

1. It will formulate strategies and develop appropriate business models to accelerate electric mobility in India.
2. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect

About Forum for Decarbonizing Transport:

- **The forum will be a one-stop platform** for initiating dialogues between the stakeholders and partners that will help in achieving specific results in reducing emissions from the transport sector.
- **It will work in close coordination** with all the stakeholders to formulate strategies and develop appropriate business models to accelerate electric mobility in India.

Significance of this Forum:

- In India, transport is the third most CO₂ emitting sector with road transport contributing to more than 90% of total CO₂ emissions.
- The Indian government through its various policies is promoting decarbonization of transport with a major focus on electric mobility.
- Hence, a coordinated effort like this forum will help enable investment, encourage adoption, and ensure fair operation in the EV industry.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statement regarding light pollution:

1. There are five components of light pollution: Urban sky glow, light trespass, glare, uplight and clutter.
2. While Urban sky glow is the brightening of the night sky over urban inhabited areas, Glare refers to falling of light in an area where it is not intended or needed

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) was recently seen in the news. Which of the following organisation release this particular index?

- a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) Greenpeace International
- d) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently UNICEF along with 'Fridays with Future' launched a new report called **"The Climate Crisis Is a Child's Rights Crisis"** highlighting the impact of climate change on the lives of children.

The report introduces the new **Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)**, a composite index that ranks nations based on children's exposure to climate shocks, providing the first comprehensive look at how exactly children are affected by the climate crisis

Read more: [Climate crisis putting a billion children at 'extremely high risk,' warns new UN report](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Vultures:

1. They are relatively social birds with an average lifespan of 50-80 years in the wild
2. Vultures don't have a voice box, so they communicate via grunts and hisses

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The average lifespan of Vulture is 10-30 years

About Vultures:

- Vultures belong to the Accipitridae family, whose members include eagles, hawks and kites
- They are relatively social birds with an average lifespan of 10-30 years in the wild, nest on tall trees or rocky cliffs
- Vultures are slow breeders and so the survival of every individual is very crucial
- They have excellent eyesight and strong sense of smell, and hence can detect the presence of dead animals from great distances
- Vultures don't have a voice box, and so they cannot sing. They communicate via grunts and hisses
- Unlike other raptors, vultures have weak legs and claws (talons)
- They do not carry food; instead, they regurgitate food and feed their young ones
- Vultures have a highly acidic stomach that helps them digest a rotting carcass and kill disease-causing bacteria

Source: [Article](#)

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Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **misconduct of members of Rajya Sabha**

1. The Rules of the House empower Parliament to inflict any punishment on its members
2. The power to suspend an MP is vested in the house, not the chairman.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- There are speculations in the Rajya Sabha (RS) over the punishment to MP for the misconduct.
- Chairman has the power to conduct smooth proceedings of the house.
- If any rules are violated, the Chairman has the power to initiate disciplinary action.
- However, the power to suspend an MP is vested in the house, not the chairman. The chairman only names the member, while the Parliamentary Affairs minister or any other minister moves the motion for suspending the member.
- But the Rules of the House **do not empower Parliament to inflict any punishment** on its members **other than suspension** for creating disorder in the House.

Read more: [How are Rajya Sabha members punished for misconduct in the House?](#)

Q.2) Which of the following is/are true about Supreme Court:

1. Supreme Court is the guarantor and defender of fundamental rights of citizens.
2. Writ jurisdiction of High Court is narrower than of Supreme Court

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is wrong: SC can issue writ only for the enforcement of Fundamental rights and not for other purposes. HC, on the other hand, can issue writ not only for the enforcement of FR but also for other purposes.

Thus, Writ jurisdiction of High Court is wider than of Supreme Court

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme court of India is vested in

- a) The Parliament
- b) The President of India
- c) The Chief justice of India
- d) Law Commission of India

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Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding statehood of Delhi

1. Strength of Council of ministers is fixed at 15% for Delhi including the Chief Minister.
2. Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by President of India not be the Lt governor

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The strength is fixed at 10% of total strength of the assembly

Statement 2 is correct: CM of Delhi is appointed by the President of India. The other ministers are appointed by the president on the advice of the CM. The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President

Source: [TOI](#)

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Ancient and Medieval history - PRE HISTORIC INDIA AND INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Dravidian languages

1. These are a family of some 70 languages spoken primarily in South Asia.
2. The Dravidian language with the most speakers at present is Tamil

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

A new research paper published in the journal 'Nature' has provided some interesting new insight into the linguistic culture of the Indus Valley Civilization. The paper said, Ancestral Dravidian languages were possibly spoken by a significant population in the Indus Valley civilization.

About the Dravidian Languages

- Dravidian languages, a family of some 70 languages spoken primarily in South Asia. They are spoken by more than 215 million people in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- The Dravidian languages with the most speakers are (in descending order of number of speakers) Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, all of which have long literary traditions. Smaller literary languages are Tulu and Kodava.
- There are also a number of Dravidian-speaking Scheduled Tribes, such as the Kurukh in Eastern India and Gondi in Central India.

Read more: [An ancient Dravidian language link with the Indus Valley civilisation](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Saroop

1. It is a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi.
2. The Sikhs consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib as a living guru
3. The fifth Sikh master, Guru Arjan Dev declared the Guru Granth Sahib as the living Guru of the Sikhs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

Among the most striking images emerging from the flight of Sikhs from Afghanistan have been those of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri carrying on his head, one of the saroops of the holy Guru Granth Sahib flown in from that country.

About Saroop:

- Saroop is a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi. Every Bir has 1,430 pages, which are referred to as Ang. The verses on every page remain the same.

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- The Sikhs consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib a living guru and treat it with utmost respect. They believe that all the 10 Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies, and the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form.
- It was the fifth Sikh master, Guru Arjan Dev, who compiled the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604, and installed it at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- Later, the tenth Sikh master, Guru Gobind Singh, added verses penned by the ninth master, his father Guru Tegh Bahadur, and compiled the Bir for the second and last time.
- It was in 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh declared the Guru Granth Sahib the living Guru of the Sikhs.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Hampi the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire**

- a) It is located in the Krishna river basin
- b) Krishnadevaraya made Hampi as the capital city.
- c) By 1500 CE, Hampi became the world's largest medieval-era city.
- d) Wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas is the unique feature of Hampi

Which of the above statement is true?

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, the Vice-president of India visited monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi in Vijayanagara district, Karnataka.

About Hampi:

- Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. The old city of Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets.
- Harihara and Bukka of Sangama dynasty made Hampi as capital after the formation of the empire.
- By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Modern history

Q.1) Which of the following statement about Rabindranath Tagore is correct

1. He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel prize for his work on Gitanjali
2. He renounced his knighthood in 1915 because of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
3. He wrote the national anthems of India & Bangladesh

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: In 1915 Tagore was awarded knighthood by the British King George V. He renounced his knighthood in 1919 because of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements

1. He belonged to the Ezhava caste.
2. He involved in Vaikom Satyagraha which is against untouchability and caste discrimination in Hindu society
3. His works include Atmopadesa Satakam and Daiva Dasakam

Which of the following personality is described in the statements above?

- a) E V Ramasamy Naicker
- b) Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- c) Sree Narayana Guru
- d) Ramalinga Swamigal

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Sree Narayana Guru on his Jayanti.

About Narayana Guru:

- Narayana Guru (1855 – 1928) was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India.
- He was born into a family that belonged to the Ezhava caste.
- He led a reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala in order to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality.
- Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (also known as SNDP Yogam) is an Indian spiritual organization that was formally founded by Dr. Padmanabhan Palpu in 1903, with the guidance of Shri Narayana Guru. The main aim of SNDP Yogam was to spiritually uplift the people of the Ezhava/Tiyyar communities.
- Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was a social protest in erstwhile Travancore against untouchability and caste discrimination in Hindu society of Kerala. Sree Narayana Guru involved himself with the Vaikom Satyagraha and extended much co-operation.

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- He published 45 works in Malayalam, Sanskrit and Tamil languages which include Atmopadesa Śatakam, a hundred-verse spiritual poem and Daiva Dasakam, a universal prayer in ten verses.

Source : [PIB](#)

ForumIAS

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Geography

Q.1) Kanal Istanbul was seen recently in news. The canal connects which of the following two seas?

- Sea of Marmara and Aegean Sea
- Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Kanal Istanbul, an under-construction shipping route running parallel to the strategically critical Bosphorus Strait, is fast gaining prominence as a major divisive issue in Turkey.

About the Kanal Istanbul:

Source: Wikipedia

- It is a planned canal that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
- The planned canal will run parallel to the Bosphorus Strait, a natural waterway that separates Europe and Asia, which for centuries has served as a key outlet for Russian ships entering the Mediterranean Sea.
- Since 1936, passage through the Strait has been governed by the Montreux Convention, a multilateral treaty that allows ships to go across almost free of cost during peacetime, and which tightly restricts the movement of naval vessels.
- Analysts also believe that the canal was planned to circumvent Montreux Convention
- Turkish leaders say that the new canal, which will run on the European side of Bosphorus, will be safer and faster to navigate compared to the Bosphorus, making it a more attractive option for commercial ships

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding corals

1. Corals are known as rainforests of the sea
2. In India, coral reefs can only be found near Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: In India, it can be found in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands and the Gulf of Kutch

Source: [DTE](#)