

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

September, 2021 (Fourth Week)

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ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following states?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Odisha
- c) Bihar
- d) Chhattisgarh

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary lies in Odisha.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD) was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements correctly describes the term?

- a) It is an ancient shark species identified in Rajasthan.
- b) It is a new butterfly species found in Western Ghats.
- c) It is the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve located in Europe.
- d) It is a project that aims to bring ancient species to the present world using gene editing technology.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, UNESCO designated **Mura-Drava-Danube (MDD)** as the world's first 'five-country biosphere reserve.

The biosphere reserve covers 700 kilometres of the Mura, Drava and Danube rivers and stretches across **Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia**. The total area of the reserve — a million hectares — in the so-called '**Amazon of Europe**', makes it the largest riverine protected area on the continent.

Read more: [UNESCO declares world's first 5-country biosphere reserve in 'Amazon of Europe'](#)

Q.3) With reference to **Global Methane Pledge**, consider the following statements.

1. It is a pledge to cut global methane emissions by nearly 30% in the next decade.
2. The pledge is jointly made by US and European Union(EU).

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:

Statement 1 is correct: It is a pledge to cut global methane emissions by nearly 30% in the next decade.

Statement 2 is correct: The pledge is jointly made by US and European Union(EU).

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The pledge will be formalized at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.

Read more: [Biden unveils plan to cut methane emissions](#)

Q.4) Sequoia National Park was recently seen in News. The national park is situated in which of the country?

- a) Australia
- b) Germany
- c) The USA
- d) Indonesia

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Two wildfires in California, US are burning through the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada that is home to some of the largest trees in the world.

Among these trees is the **world's largest tree** popularly known as **General Sherman**, which firefighters are now trying to protect from the blaze.

The General Sherman tree is the world's largest in terms of volume. As per recent estimates, General Sherman is about 2,200 years old.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.5) With reference to Sea Cucumber, consider the following statements.

1. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients.
2. World's first conservation area for Sea Cucumbers is created by Lakshadweep Islands.

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:

Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized two tonnes of sea cucumber, a banned marine species, in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay areas in Tamil Nadu.

Sea cucumbers are marine invertebrates that live on the seafloor found generally in tropical regions.

Statement 1 is correct: They are an integral part of the coral ecosystem. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients, thus playing an important role in keeping coral reefs in good condition.

Statement 2 is correct: In 2020, the Lakshadweep Islands administration created the world's first conservation area for sea cucumbers.

Sea cucumber in India is treated as an endangered species listed under schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Source: [PIB](#)

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Q.6) Deolali minnow, the Deccan barb and the Nilgiri mystus belong to which of the following species?

- a) Frog
- b) Gecko
- c) Fish
- d) Bird

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- All belong to the fish species.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Which of the following is/are possible consequences of Ozone depletion?

1. Changes in the spectrum of incoming radiation.
2. Formation of more tropospheric ozone.
3. Change the vertical distribution of molecules in the troposphere and stratosphere.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All are correct.

Explanation

Ozone depletion can cause the following: -

- **First**, Ozone depletion affects the climate and changes the spectrum of incoming radiation.
- **Second**, the ozone layer may produce new molecular species that change the radiation-emitting and absorbing properties of the atmosphere. This may cause the formation of more tropospheric ozone, which will not be desirable.
- **Third**, in the absence of the ozone layer, the radiations will directly flow to the earth's surface and change the vertical distribution of molecules in the troposphere and stratosphere. This will change the rate of vertical circulation.

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.8) WHO's new Global Air Quality Guidelines (GAQGs) recommends air quality levels for which of the following pollutants?

1. Ozone
2. Nitrous Oxide
3. Carbon Dioxide

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The WHO's new guidelines recommend air quality levels for six pollutants, including ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

The other two are PM10 and PM2.5 -- particulate matter equal or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.9) With respect to **One Horned Rhino**, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as Endangered under the IUCN category.
2. Under India Rhino Vision 2020, it aims to Increase the Rhino Population in Assam from about 2000 to 3000 by 2020.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Conservation status of One Horned Rhino:

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.

CITES: Appendix I

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Statement 2 is correct: The vision of IRV is to Increase the Rhino Population in Assam from about 2000 to 3000 by 2020. It aims to ensure that one-horned rhinos are spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/explained-why-assam-govt-is-burning-2500-rhino-horns-in-a-special-ceremony/>

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Government Schemes and Initiatives

Q.1) With respect to “**Ek Pahal**”, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have launched the “Ek Pahal” Campaign.
2. Under the campaign, people will be encouraged to register under the Tele-Law Initiative.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Ministry of Law and Justice in association with the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) has launched the “Ek Pahal” Campaign.

Statement 2 is correct: Ek Pahal Campaign aims to mainstream legal aid and to actualize the aspiration of access to justice for every citizen. Under the campaign, people will be encouraged to register under the Tele-Law Initiative.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/ministry-of-law-and-justice-launches-pan-india-special-campaign-for-justice-delivery-at-doorstep/>

Q.2) With respect to “**Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019**”, consider the following statements:

1. It grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian from all our neighboring countries.
2. Under the Act, the Central government has power to cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Statement 2 is correct: The Act provides that the central government may cancel the registration of OCIs on certain grounds.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/who-is-the-hollow-caa-really-meant-to-protect/>

Q.3) With reference to **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a skill development programme, where training will be provided to youth with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways.
2. Based on the performance of the trainees, they have the Right to seek employment in Railways.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Recently, the Ministry of Railways launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Statement 1 is correct: This is a skill development programme, where training will be provided to youth with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Candidates who are 10th passed and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply. Participants in the scheme shall however have no claim to seek employment in Railways on the basis of this training.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.4) With reference to SPIN Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is aimed at bringing self-sustainability in India Textile sector.
2. KVIC (Khadi and village Industries Commission) has launched this scheme.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The scheme is aimed at bringing self-sustainability in the Indian pottery sector.

Statement 2 is correct: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Scheme called SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India). It has also set up a pottery cluster under SFURTI Scheme.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/on-prime-ministers-birthday-kvic-launches-series-of-schemes-to-empower-artisans-in-varanasi/>

Q.5) With reference to National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), consider the statements below:

1. Public Sector Banks and private lenders shall hold equal ownership in NARCL.
2. The stressed assets acquired by NARCL would be handled by India Debt Resolution Company Ltd.

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PSBs shall hold 51% ownership and the rest will be held by private lenders.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The stressed assets acquired by NARCL would be handled by India Debt Resolution Company Ltd. IDRCL will focus on the resolution of the assets and employ turnaround professionals. When the assets are sold, the commercial banks will be paid back the rest.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) With respect to “**Project Fulwari**”, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. Its aim is to address the problem of malnutrition and associated physical and mental development issues of infants.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It has been launched by The Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), a Singrauli based Coal India arm under the **Ministry of Coal**.

Statement 2 is correct: As part of the project, Fulwari Centres are being established where identified malnourished children are getting special attention to ensure that their weight, physical and mental progress meets the normal standards. Apart from this, timely vaccination and age-appropriate safe toys are also being arranged for the kids at these centres.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/project-fulwari-under-azadi-ka-amrit-mahotsav-to-strengthen-northern-coalfields-limited-nclfight-against-malnutrition-in-kids/>

Q.7) With reference to **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is the nodal agency for regulating the safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.
2. It is an autonomous body under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

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:

Both statements are correct

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Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization(PESO) is the nodal agency for regulating the safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases and petroleum.

PESO was formerly known as the Department of Explosives. It is an autonomous body under DPIIT.

PESO's major work is to administer the responsibilities delegated under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934 and the Rules made thereunder related to manufacturing, import, export, transport, possession, sale and use of Explosives, Petroleum products and compressed gases.

Headquarters: PESO has its Headquarters at Nagpur in Maharashtra. It also serves through five Circle Offices at Agra, Chennai, Faridabad, Kolkata & Mumbai.

Read more: [Industrial Safety in Petroleum and Explosives Sector gets a Big Boost](#)

Q.8) K. Kasturirangan Committee, was recently seen in news. It is related to which of the following:

- To study the monsoon
- To devise New Curriculum Framework
- To study the present inflation trends of India
- To study the archaeological sites of India

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement b is correct: The Union Education Ministry has set up a committee headed by space scientist K. Kasturirangan to devise the National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs). It will serve as a guiding document for the development of textbooks, syllabus and teaching practices in schools across the country.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/new-panel-to-devise-school-curriculum/>

Q.9) With reference to **PM KUSUM**, consider the following statements:

- The scheme aims to promote the use of solar power among farmers.
- This scheme is launched under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-Kusum) scheme was launched in 2019. It aims to help farmers access reliable day-time solar power for irrigation, reduce power subsidies, and decarbonise agriculture.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) Scheme

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.10) With reference to SAUBHAGYA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to achieve Universal Household Electrification in the rural areas alone.
2. Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It aims to provide electricity to all unelectrified households in rural and urban areas.

Statement 2 is correct: Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

Source: [SAUBHAGYA completes Four years of successful implementation](#)

Q.11) With reference to **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, Consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms and citizens access health records electronically.
2. The Health ID will be free of cost and mandatory for all Indian Citizens.

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: It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms and citizens access health records electronically.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Health ID will be free of cost and voluntary for all Indian Citizens.

Source: [PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission](#)

Q.12) Which of the following services is/are covered under the recently launched Elder line helpline?

1. Pension & legal issues.
2. Emotional support.
3. Intervention in case of abuse.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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Correct Answer:

Explanation:

All are correct.

- Elder Line is the first pan-India toll-free helpline-14567-for senior citizens. It aims to provide free information and guidance on pension and legal issues, extend emotional support and intervene in cases of abuse.
- The intent is basically to provide senior citizens or their well-wishers with one platform to connect and share their concerns, get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis without having to struggle for it.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) TKS Nair Committee, Raman Puri Committee, seen in news, is related to which of the following:

- a) Agricultural Reforms
- b) Police Reforms
- c) Defence Reforms
- d) Economy reforms

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement C is correct: Various committees in the past were constituted for the purpose of defence reforms. Corporatization of OFB was recommended by **TKS Nair Committee (2000)**, **Vijay Kelkar Committee (2005)**, and **Vice Admiral Raman Puri Committee (2015)**. There is another committee under setup under **Lt Gen D B Shekatkar**, which did not suggest corporatization. It recommended regular audits of all ordnance units considering past performance.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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Modern History

Q.1) With respect to “**Shankar Shah**”, consider the following statements:

1. He was a Gond king of Garha Kingdom in the Gondwana region of Madhya Pradesh.
2. He fought with the Mughal Kings, including Aurangzeb to establish independent kingdom.

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: King Shankar Shah was a Gond king of Garha Kingdom in the Gondwana region of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Despite his state being under British rule during the first war of independence in 1857, the king and his son, Raghunath were saddened by the British era atrocities and kept igniting the rebellion through their poetry.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q.1) Samudra Shakti is a joint naval exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Nepal
- c) Indonesia
- d) Thailand

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- It is a joint naval exercise between Indian and Indonesian navies.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) Global Innovation Index is released by?

- a) WIPO
- b) UNCTAD
- c) WB
- d) WEF

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The Global Innovation Index (GII), founded by Soumitra Dutta and Bruno Lanvin, is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) With reference to G20, consider the following statements:

1. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
2. It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

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:

Statement 1 is correct: It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Statement 2 is correct: It does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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Q.4) With reference to AUKUS Alliance, consider the following statements:

1. The alliance is directly aimed to control offensive maneuvers of China in Indo-Pacific.
2. Under the alliance, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines.
3. It is a diplomatic grouping involving Australia, UK and US.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

- 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 1 is incorrect: According to the official statement, the AUKUS is not aimed [at] or about any one country, it's about advancing strategic interests of the AUKUS Countries and upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Statement 2 is correct: Under the alliance, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The AUKUS is a security grouping, unlike QUAD, which is a diplomatic grouping.

Source: [AUKUS Security Alliance – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.5) Doing Business Report is released by which of the following organizations?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) International Labor Organization
- d) Reserve Bank of India

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

It is the World Bank's annual report. The report greatly influences investor decisions by releasing a ranking of economies based on how easy it is to open up, and operate, a business.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/world-bank-discontinues-doing-business-rankings/>

Q.6) Which of the following countries is/are a part of the E7 group?

1. India
2. Brazil
3. China

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- 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:

- The E7 is the seven countries China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia and Turkey, grouped together because of their major emerging economies. The term was coined by the economists John Hawksworth and Gordon Cookson at PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2006.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Nepal
- c) Thailand
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- It is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) State Food Safety Index, in news, is released by which of the following organization?

- a) World Health Organization (WHO)
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) Food Safety and Standard authority of India (FSSAI)
- d) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement c is correct: The index is developed by **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** to measure the performance of states on **five significant parameters of Food Safety**.

The **parameters include** Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.9) With reference to “Blue Flag Certification” consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded by a non-profit organization called the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
2. Recently, Palolem Beach of Goa received Blue Flag cert certification.

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:

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Statement 1 is correct: The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised **voluntary eco-labels** awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Recently, Indian Kovalam beach in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry got the Blue Flag certification. With this there are total 10 Blue flag certified beach In India

1. Golden Beach – Odisha
2. Shivrajpur Beach – Gujarat
3. Kappad Beach – Kerala
4. Ghoghla Beach – Diu
5. Radhanagar Beach – Andaman and Nicobar
6. Kasarkod Beach – Karnataka
7. Padubidri Beach – Karnataka
8. Rushikonda Beach – Andhra Pradesh
9. Kovalam Beach – Tamil Nadu
10. Eden Beach – Puducherry

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.10) Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity report is released by?

- a) FAO
- b) International Fund for Agricultural Development
- c) World Food Programme
- d) International Food Policy Research Institute

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The report is released by United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) With reference to Quad Fellowship programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scholarship program that will sponsor 100 students per year—25 from each Quad country.
2. The selected students can pursue masters and doctoral degrees at leading universities in any Quad country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It is a scholarship program that will sponsor 100 students per year—25 from each Quad country.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The selected students can pursue masters and doctoral degrees at leading STEM graduate universities in the United States.

Source: [Quad Leaders' Summit – Explained, pointwise](#)

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Q.12) World Happiness Index, recently released published by which of the following organization?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Labor Organization
- c) UN Sustainable Development Solution Network
- d) Global Happiness Organization

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement c is correct: The World Happiness Report ranks 149 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be. The report has been published by UN Sustainable Development Solution Network

The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables: Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity), Social Support, Healthy life expectancy at birth, Freedom to make life choices, Generosity, Perceptions of corruption.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) With reference to Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOF), consider the following statements:

1. They are a class of compounds containing metal ions coordinated to organic ligands to form 3D structures.
2. They are often highly porous materials that act like a sponge.

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

Explanations

Both statements are correct.

- MOFs are a class of compounds containing metal ions coordinated to organic ligands to form 3D structures, with the special feature that they are often highly porous materials that act like a sponge.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to Nuclear-powered Submarines of India, consider the following statements:

1. INS Chakra was the first Nuclear-powered Submarine of India.
2. India does not have a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine or SSBN.

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: India has had Nuclear powered Submarine since it got the Soviet-built K-43 Charlie-class SSN in 1987. It was commissioned with the Red Fleet of the USSR in 1967, and it was leased to the Indian Navy. In India, it was rechristened INS Chakra. The submarine was decommissioned in 1991.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the meantime, India was working on building its own SSN, and the first Indian nuclear submarine, the INS Arihant, was commissioned in 2016. India also demonstrated the capability to launch nuclear weapons in 2018, the INS Arihant is now classified as a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine or SSBN. This is significant, as INS Arihant completes India's nuclear triad.

Read more: [Explained: The AUKUS agreement to equip Australia with n-sub's – About Nuclear Submarines](#)

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Q.3) Recommendation algorithms are frequently employed in which of the following platforms?

1. E-commerce
2. Social media
3. Gig work

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recommendation algorithms are widely employed in e-commerce platforms, social media feeds and gig work platforms. Such an algorithm helps a user navigate information overload and presents content that it deems more relevant to the user.

These algorithms **learn from user demographics, behavioral patterns, location of the user, the interests of other users accessing similar content**, etc., to deliver content.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) With respect to “Havana Syndrome”, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a set of mental health symptoms experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
2. It involves symptoms such as hearing certain sounds without any outside noise being present, nausea, vertigo and headaches, memory loss.

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:

Statement 1 is correct: The Havana syndrome is a set of medical signs and symptoms reported by US and Canadian embassy staff first in Havana, Cuba dating to late 2016, and subsequently in other countries.

Statement 2 is correct: The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/explained-cia-officer-on-india-trip-reports-havana-syndrome-what-is-known-about-its-symptoms-and-causes-so-far/>

Q.5) XENON1T and LUX-Zeplin experiments are associated with which of the following?

- a) Block Chain technology
- b) Dark matter detection
- c) Search for extraterrestrial life
- d) Detection of gravitational waves

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The XENON1T experiment is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment and was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.
- LUX-Zeplin is a next-generation dark matter experiment located at the Sanford Underground Research Facility.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) With reference to outer space treaty 1967, consider the following statements:

1. Outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States.
2. Astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind.
3. States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are principles enshrined in the outer space treaty?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

Outer Space Treaty, 1967 includes the following principles:

- The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;
- Outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;
- Outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;
- States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;
- The Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- Astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;
- States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental activities;
- States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and
- States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) With reference to dark energy and dark matter, consider the following statements:

1. Majority of the universe is dark matter.
2. Dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together.

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Roughly 68% of the universe is dark energy. Dark matter makes up about 27%. The rest - everything on Earth, everything ever observed with all of our instruments, all normal matter - adds up to less than 5% of the universe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together while dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe. Both components are invisible.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following pairs:

- | Vitamin | Deficiency |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Vitamin A | Night Blindness |
| 2. Vitamin C | Scurvy |
| 3. Vitamin D | Anaemia |

Which of the pairs gives above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 2

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

Disease caused by Vitamin A: Night Blindness,

Vitamin C: Scurvy, disease of gums

Vitamin B: Anaemia

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.9) With reference to **Akash Prime Missile**, consider the following statements:

1. It is medium range Air-Air Missile developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization).
2. Missile is optimized for low temperature and high-altitude operations with the modified ground system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system. It was developed by DRDO.

Statement 2 is correct: It is equipped with an improved active radio-frequency (RF) seeker. Missile has also been optimized for low temperature and high-altitude operations with the modified ground system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.10) With reference to Hydrogen, consider the following statements:

1. It occupies a larger volume as compared with the same quantity of diesel.
2. Compared to batteries, hydrogen offers an economical alternative for short-distance transportation.

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:** Hydrogen takes up a lot of space. 1 kg of Hydrogen, occupies a volume of about 11,000 litres, versus just over a litre per kg of diesel.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** For smaller distances, battery-charged vehicles are the most viable option economically. while Hydrogen can be used in heavy duty, long-distance transportation because batteries have low energy-to-weight ratios, and they take a long time to charge compared to fuel cells.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) With reference to fungible and non-fungible assets, consider the following statements:

1. A fungible asset can be readily interchanged.
2. A non-fungible asset can also contain smart contracts.

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

Both statements are correct.

What are Fungible and Non-Fungible assets?

- A fungible asset is something that can be readily interchanged like money. With money, you can swap a £10 note for two £5 notes, and it will have the same value.
- On the other hand, a non-fungible asset means it has unique properties which cannot be interchanged with something else. Example: It could be a painting that is one of a kind. You can take a photo of the painting or buy a print, but there will only ever be one original painting.

What are Non-Fungible Tokens(NFTs)?

- Non-Fungible Tokens(NFTs) are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated.
- They are one-of-a-kind assets in the digital world that can be bought and sold like any other piece of property, but they have no tangible form of their own.
- The digital tokens can be thought of as certificates of ownership for virtual or physical assets.

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- NFTs can also contain smart contracts that can solve the problems of provenance and duplication of the art.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) With reference to **Agni missiles**, consider the following statements:

1. Agni V is a three-stage, solid fueled fire and forget missile.
2. Agni-P (Prime) is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. It will replace the Agni I missile.

Which of the statements given above 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.

Recently, China has cited a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution to question India's missile programme amid reports of an upcoming test for the Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile.

Very few countries, including the US, China, Russia, France and North Korea, have InterContinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM).

Agni Class of Missiles:

Agni V is a three-stage, solid fueled fire and forget missile.

Agni-P (Prime) is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. These Agni Prime will replace the Agni I missile.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.13) With reference to USB-Type C, consider the following statements:

1. They support reverse insertion.
2. They can support relatively larger charging currents ranging from 3 A to 5 A.
3. The connector tabs on the Type C chargers were placed on the cable itself, instead of being placed on the device.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

The European Commission has proposed a plan to harmonise charging ports and fast charging technology for electronic devices — something that could force original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to adopt a single technology (USB-Type C) for most of their devices.

About USB-Type C:

- Type-C ports support reverse insertion, so one can insert either end of the cable.

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- Type-C ports can transmit data at a higher rate. 4K videos can be transmitted via a USB 3.1 Type-C port.
- Type-C ports support relatively larger charging currents ranging from 3 A to 5 A, and support reverse charging.

The only disadvantage of Type-C is that the connector tabs for chargers were placed on the device itself. So, any malfunction of these tabs would require replacement of the entire port (Not cable alone).

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.14) With reference to **Rabies**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a protozoic disease that is spread through the animal bite.
2. Its symptoms include neurological problems and a fear of light and water.

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:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is caused by a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is **present in the saliva** of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).

Statement 2 is correct: It has symptoms of cerebral dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, and agitation. As the disease progresses, the person may experience delirium, abnormal behavior, hallucinations, hydrophobia (fear of water), and insomnia

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.15) With reference to **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is an industry – academia interface designed to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprises.

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:** BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise set up by Deptt of Biotechnology.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an industry-academia interface. Likewise, it aims to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.16) With reference to Landsat-9, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint mission by NASA and ISRO.
2. It will help identify water bodies affected by potentially harmful algal blooms.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The earth monitoring satellite, Landsat 9, is a joint mission of NASA and the US Geological Survey (USGS).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** If a forest is affected by drought, it will be seen in Landsat images and can help the researchers decode the areas at risk. Similarly during a wildfire, the Landsat images will capture the plumes of smoke and help study the extent of a burning. The satellite images can also help recovery experts plan sites for replanting. Landsat images can also help identify water bodies affected by potentially harmful algal blooms. According to NASA, scientists are now developing computer programs that would use Landsat and other satellite data to automatically warn lake recreation managers when blooms pop up.

Source: [Article](#)

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Ancient and Medieval History

Q.1) With reference to **Choppu Samaan**, consider the following statements?

1. It is a traditional play toy for kids.
2. It has recently received GI (Geographical Indication) tag.

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: It is a traditional toy for kids. It is a kitchen set that is made up of fine wood with polished edges. Furthermore, it is painted with harmless natural colours, so it is safe for children. Originally, artists used teak and rosewood, but now there is more use of eucalyptus and rubberwood.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Recently, a Welfare Association of wooden toymakers named Ambasamudram Bharani Mara Varna Kadasal Artisans has applied for the Geographical Indications tag for Choppu Samaan. It still has not received GI tag.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.2) With reference to **Shankhalipi script**, consider the following statements:

1. It comprises of ornate spiral characters assumed to be Brahmi derivatives looking like conch shells.
2. It is found in inscriptions across north-central 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: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

- Shankhalipi or “shell-script” is a term used by scholars to describe ornate spiral characters assumed to be Brahmi derivatives that look like conch shells or shankhas.
- They are found in inscriptions across north-central India and date to between the 4th and 8th centuries. A similar inscription was found on the back of a stone horse sculpture from that period that is at present in the State Museum at Lucknow.

Source: [Article](#)

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Polity

Q.1) With reference to a Self-Help Group (SHG), consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary association of the economically poor, usually drawn from the same socio-economic background.
2. Initially, the NABARD launched self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage programme.

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:

Both statements are correct.

- SHG is a voluntary association of the economically poor, usually drawn from the same socio-economic background, and who resolve to come together for a common purpose of solving their issues and problems through self-help and community action.
- Initially, the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, along with empanelled Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) designed and developed the SHGs-Bank linkage programme.

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ECONOMY

Q.1) De Soto effect is associated with which of the following?

- Slow technological progress due to population growth
- Enhanced thermionic emission in a condensed matter
- Access of global poor to the formal credit system
- a psychological tendency to remember interrupted or incomplete tasks.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Soto effect states that the global poor working in tiny informal enterprises are in effect shut out of the formal credit system. Hence, they are forced to live in poverty, because a lack of clear property rights makes it difficult for them to offer their land assets as collateral to banks.
- A slum dweller with no formal land title thus has to depend on informal sources of money that leave her with little to reinvest in the business.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to **Gig workers, consider the following statements:**

- Code on Social Security, 2020 aims to provide labor rights to gig workers.
- At present, more than 50% of new employment in India is generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce
- There is no clear employee-employer relationship is available to gig workers in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Code on Social Security, 2020 aims to provide only social security benefits not the labor rights.

Statement 2 is correct: An estimated 56% of new employment in India is being generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce.

Statement 3 is correct: No clear employer-employee relationship is the main issue with the gig economy workers in India. Most of the time, it is the ambiguity around the rights of workers and the responsibilities of platforms that allows businesses to treat their gig workers as employees in terms of the control they exert upon them, but without any employee entitlements like insurance, medical benefits, employees' provident fund, bonus or gratuity, etc.

Source: [Gig Workers and their challenges - Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the **benefit of pearl farming?**

- Alternate source of income for farmers.
- Employment generation of youth.
- Reduce fertilizers usage.
- Eco-Friendly and purify the water.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) has signed an agreement with the Jharkhand-based Purty Agrotech for the promotion of pearl farming in tribal areas.

The benefits of pearl farming includes,

- **Alternate Source of Income for Farmers.**
- **Employment Generation.**
- **Eco-Friendly Technique:** Pearl farming is an eco-friendly technique. Filter feeder oysters also purify the water. A single oyster clears over 15 gallons of water a day, retaining particles as small as 2 microns.

Source: [Govt to promote pearl farming in tribal areas](#)

Q.4) With reference to Judima, consider the following statements:

1. It is a wine brewed by Dimasa community of Assam.
2. It is the first beverage from North East to earn a GI Tag.

Which of the statements given above 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.

- Judima, the wine brewed by the Dimasa community in Assam, has been awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- This wine made from rice and a certain herb is the first beverage from the north-east to earn this label.
- The GI tag for Judima followed months of documentation by the Assam Agricultural University, which coordinated the historical and cultural research on the popular drink with the Youth Association for Development and Empowerment (YADEM) in central Assam's Dima Hasao district.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) SCALE Committee was recently seen in news. Which of the following statements is explaining the aim of the committee?

- a) The committee aims to improve coir industry's production in India.
- b) The committee aims to provide a practical road map for improving India's renewable energy targets.

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- c) It is a joint government-industry committee aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.
- d) It is a committee that aims to improve the measurement standards to provide proper weights and measurements.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

SCALE Committee stands for Steering Committee for Local Value Addition, Manufacturing and Exports(SCALE)

It is a joint government-industry panel aimed at navigating Indian manufacturing away from the import-dependence pitfalls exposed by the pandemic.

The committee is looking at ways to increase localisation, component manufacturing and employment in various industries.

Source: [Govt.-industry panel drives policy to revive manufacturing](#)

Q.6) Which of the following parameters of ground water are measured in Aquifer mapping under the National Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) programme?

1. Quantity
2. Quality
3. Sustainability

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- Aquifer mapping can be defined as a scientific process, wherein a combination of geologic, geophysical, hydrologic and chemical field and laboratory analyses are applied to characterize the quantity, quality and sustainability of ground water in aquifers.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) With reference to Naga Cucumber, consider the following statements:

1. It is grown in Jhum fields as a mixed crop mainly during the Kharif season.
2. It can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks.
3. It is cultivated completely organically.

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) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

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- Naga Cucumber has been traditionally cultivated by Naga farmers in their Jhum fields as a mixed crop, mainly during the Kharif season (April –May).
- Naga cucumbers are juicy, soft, and sweet. They are grown completely organically.
- Naga cucumbers differ in taste, shape and sizes from those available in other parts of India.
- They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a high level of water and can serve as an alternative to consuming sports drinks

Source: [Article](#)

ForumIAS

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ART AND CULTURE

Q.1) With reference to Ellora Caves, consider the following statements:

1. These caves belong from 6th to 10th century.
2. It has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

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:

Both statements are correct.

Dating back from the 6th to 10th century, the Ellora Caves comprise 34 monasteries and temples excavated side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff. Besides being an architectural marvel, the heritage site also embodies the spirit of tolerance as it has sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism at one place.

Source: [Article](#)

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GEOGRAPHY

Q.1) With reference to Atlantic Niño, consider the statements below:

1. It causes a reduction in the number of low-pressure systems leading to a deficit-monsoon.
2. The biggest rainfall deficits from the Atlantic Niño tend to occur over the Eastern Ghats.

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:** Atlantic Niño's impact on the monsoon has been known since 2014 when a study led by INCOIS showed that the number of low-pressure systems is greatly reduced by the Atlantic Niño, leading to deficit monsoons.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Atlantic Niño affects the monsoon by producing atmospheric waves, which propagate into the Indian Ocean. These waves affect air temperatures over the Indian Ocean and influence the land-ocean thermal contrast as well as Low Pressure Systems (LPSs). The biggest rainfall deficits from the Atlantic Niño tend to occur over the Western Ghats and the core monsoon zone.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) With reference to Tropical Cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. It requires large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C for its formation.
2. Coriolis Force is not required in the formation of Tropical Cyclones.
3. Cyclonic wind movements are anti-clockwise in the Southern hemisphere and clockwise in the Northern hemisphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: It requires more than 27° C for its formation.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Presence of Coriolis force is required for the tropical cyclone formation.

Statement 3 is incorrect: cyclonic wind movements are anti-clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/high-water-on-growing-challenge-from-tropical-cyclones/>