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Prelims Marathon

07th to 13th Feb, 2022

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Location/IR/Geography

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. USA
2. Australia
3. Germany
4. France

Which of the above country/countries have Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) obtained Trademark Registration?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC): Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries – Bhutan, UAE and Mexico.

How many countries has KVIC obtained Trademark Registration?

- So far, KVIC has Trademark registrations for the word mark “KHADI” in 6 countries namely Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU.
- However, with trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, the number of such countries has gone up to nine.
- In these countries, KVIC has got registrations in various classes such as Khadi fabric, Khadi readymade garments and village industry products like Khadi soaps, Khadi cosmetics, Khadi incense sticks among others.

Source: EPIC July 2021.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to black soils:

1. Black soils also called as regur soils.
2. It covers the areas of Punjab, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
3. The black soils are made up of Clayey material.

Which of the following codes given below is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Black Soils:

- Black soils are black in colour and are also known as regur soils.
- Black soil is ideal for growing cotton and is also known as black cotton soil.
- It is believed that climatic conditions along with the parent rock material are the important factors for the formation of black soil.

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- This type of soil is typical of the Deccan trap (Basalt) region spread over northwest Deccan plateau and is made up of lava flows.
- They cover the plateaus of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and extend in the south east direction along the Godavari and the Krishna valleys.
- The black soils are made up of extremely fine i.e. clayey material.
- They are well-known for their capacity to hold moisture. In addition, they are rich in soil nutrients, such as calcium carbonate, magnesium, potash and lime. These soils are generally poor in phosphoric contents.
- They develop deep cracks during hot weather, which helps in the proper aeration of the soil. These soils are sticky when wet and difficult to work on unless tilled immediately after the first shower or during the pre-monsoon period.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) The primitive form of cultivation is called 'Podu' or 'Penda' in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Haryana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: The 'slash and burn' agriculture is known as 'Milpa' in Mexico and Central America, 'Conuco' in Venezuela, 'Roca' in Brazil, 'Masole' in Central Africa, 'Ladang' in Indonesia, 'Ray' in Vietnam. In India, this primitive form of cultivation is called 'Bewar' or 'Dahiya' in Madhya Pradesh, 'Podu' or 'Penda' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Pama Dabi' or 'Koman' or 'Bringa' in Odisha, 'Kumari' in Western Ghats, 'Valre' or 'Waltre' in South-eastern Rajasthan, 'Khil' in the Himalayan belt, 'Kuruwa' in Jharkhand, and 'Jhumming' in the North-eastern region.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) The deflection of planetary wind is caused by which of the following?

1. Revolution of earth
2. Rotation of earth
3. Difference in atmospheric pressure
4. Latitudinal variation in temperature

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

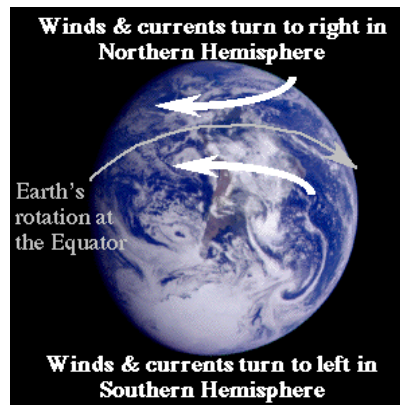
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: Our planet's rotation produces a force on all bodies moving relative to the Earth. Due to Earth's approximately spherical shape, this force is greatest at the poles and least at the Equator. The force, called the "Coriolis effect," causes the direction of winds and ocean currents to be deflected.

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In the Northern Hemisphere, wind and currents are deflected toward the right, in the Southern Hemisphere they are deflected to the left.



Source: NCERT

Q.5) In which of the following states are the famous 'Living Root Bridges' found?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Kerala

ANS: C

Explanation: During monsoon season in northeast India, rainwater gushes through the emerald valleys and deep gorges of Meghalaya, the "abode of the clouds." The mountainous plateau between Assam and Bangladesh is one of the wettest places on Earth, and the Khasi tribes who inhabit these hills have developed an intimate relationship with the forest.

Long before the availability of modern construction materials, the Khasi devised an ingenious way to traverse the turbulent waterways and link isolated villages: living root bridges, locally known as jing kieng jri.

Source: UPSC's PYQ.

Q.6) "Marrakesh Treaty" is related to which of the following Organization?

- a) IMF
- b) World Bank
- c) WTO
- d) UNCTAD

ANS: C

Explanation: WTO i.e. World Trade Organization was set up under Marrakesh Treaty (1994) as a result of Uruguay Round (1986-1994). WTO as an organization was expected to play larger role for improved living standards, employment generation, trade expansion with increasing share for developing countries and overall sustainable development. Trade liberalization was seen as means for achieving the above-mentioned objectives.

Source: The Hindu

Q.7) “Lisbon Treaty” is recently in news related to which of the following?

- a) European Union
- b) African Union
- c) Islamic Union
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The Lisbon Treaty started as a constitutional project at the end of 2001 (European Council declaration on the future of the European Union, or Laeken declaration), and was followed up in 2002 and 2003 by the European Convention which drafted the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (Constitutional Treaty). The process leading to the Lisbon Treaty is a result of the negative outcome of two referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in May and June 2005, in response to which the European Council decided to have a two-year ‘period of reflection’. Finally, on the basis of the Berlin declaration of March 2007, the European Council of 21 to 23 June 2007 adopted a detailed mandate for a subsequent Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), under the Portuguese presidency. The IGC concluded its work in October 2007. The Treaty was signed at the European Council of Lisbon on 13 December 2007 and has been ratified by all Member States.

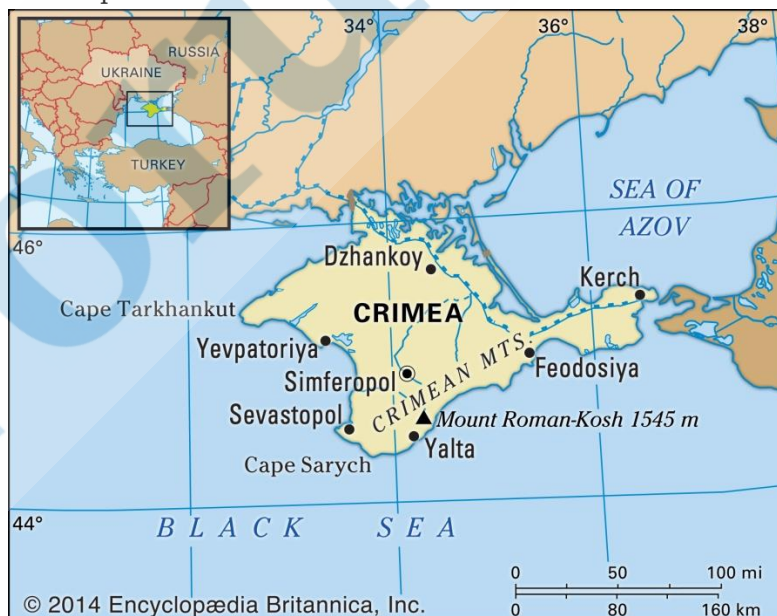
Source: The Hindu

Q.8) Crimean Peninsula thrusts into which of the following?

- a) Black Sea
- b) Mediterranean sea
- c) Caspian Sea
- d) White sea

ANS: A

Explanation: Crimean peninsula thrusts into black sea.



Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Match the following valley in India with the states:

Valley	State
1. Araku	a. Himachal Pradesh
2. Kangra	b. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Kamban Valley	c. Andhra Pradesh
4. Dibang Valley	d. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Valleys start as small and narrow rills. These rills will progressively develop into long and wide gullies. The gullies will again deepen, widen and lengthen to give rise to valleys. The valley types depend upon the type and structure of rocks in which they form. Depending upon sizes and shapes, several types of valleys like V-shaped valley, gorge, canyon, etc. can be recognized. Some of the major valleys are:

- Araku Valley, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Barak Valley, Assam
- Betaab Valley, Jammu and Kashmir
- Bhakra Nangal Valley, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh
- Chamba Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- Chambal Valley, Madhya Pradesh
- Damodar Valley, West Bengal
- Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- Imphal Valley, Manipur
- Indus Valley, Jammu and Kashmir
- Kambam Valley, Tamil Nadu
- Kangra Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Kashmir
- Kaveri Valley, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- Lidder Valley, Jammu and Kashmir
- Mahanadi Valley, Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- Mandakini Valley, Kedarnath, Uttarakhand
- Narmada Valley, Madhya Pradesh
- Pin Valley, Himachal Pradesh
- Silent Valley, Palakkad District, Kerala
- Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh (India) and Tibet (China)
- Tlawng Valley, Mizoram
- Yumthang Valley, Sikkim
- Zaskar Valley, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir
- Zoji La Valley, Jammu and Kashmir

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements about the shape of moon:

1. The phase from New moon to Full moon is called as Waxing.
2. The phase from Full moon to New moon is called as Waning.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The moon revolves around the Earth, and as it does, we see different angles of the moon's illuminated surface. The moon doesn't create its own light, but rather shines when it reflects the sun's light. As the moon transitions from new to full and back to new again, it goes through several phases, marked by its recognizable crescent and gibbous ("bulging") shapes, which are created by the moon's own shadow. The moon phases are:

- New moon
- Waxing crescent
- First quarter/Half-moon
- Waxing gibbous
- Full moon
- Waning Gibbous
- Third quarter/Half-moon
- Waning crescent
- New moon



Source: NCERT

Previous year question

Q.1) Consider the following:

1. Foreign currency convertible bonds
2. Foreign institutional investment with certain conditions
3. Global depository receipts
4. Non-resident external deposits

Which of the above can be included in Foreign Direct Investments?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In Capital Account of Balance of Payment, we can classify into Investment, Borrowings and External Assistance. Investment includes Equity flow in the economy. Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCB), Foreign Institutional Investment with certain conditions (subject to the overall limit of 24%), and Global Depository Receipts (GDR) are the instruments for the foreign investment in India.

Non-Resident external deposits are a 'debt creating' flow in balance of payments accounts and therefore, not part of Foreign Direct investments.

Source: CSP 2021

Q.2) Which one of the following is used in preparing a natural mosquito repellent?

- a) Congress grass
- b) Elephant grass
- c) Lemongrass
- d) Nut grass

ANS: C

Explanation: Citronella the essential oil found in Lemongrass is registered with the FDA. It is the most widely used natural mosquito repellent found in candles, sprays, and lotions. To help deter mosquitoes with its strong fragrance, plant lemongrass along walkways and in locations close to seating areas.

Source: CSP 2021

Q.3) Consider the following animals:

1. Hedgehog
2. Marmot
3. Pangolin

to reduce the chance of being captured by predators, which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/protect its/their vulnerable parts?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Hedgehogs are a small mammal with short limbs and a body low to the ground. When they are frightened, or annoyed, hedgehogs will roll into a ball so that a predator will feel the full brunt of its sharp spines and will then leave the hedgehog alone.

Marmots are relatively large ground squirrels in the genus *Marmota*, with 15 species living in Asia, Europe, and North America. These herbivores are active during the summer when often found in groups, but are not seen during the winter when they hibernate underground. They are the heaviest members of the squirrel family. They do not roll up when threatened.

Pangolins are uniquely covered in tough, overlapping scales. These mammals eat ants and termites using an extraordinarily long, sticky tongue, and are able to quickly roll themselves up into a tight ball when they feel threatened.

Source: CSP 2021

Q.4) With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Buddhism. Sarvastivadins (They who say "All is"), had the view that the constituents of phenomena (dharmas) were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

Source: CSP 2017

Q.5) Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The countries with coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. In addition, the Gaza Strip and the British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and Akrotiri and Dhekelia have coastlines on the sea. On the Eastern shore, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Israel have their coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.

Source: CSP 2017

Q.6) For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by

- a) anyone residing in India.
- b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
- c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
- d) any citizen of India.

ANS: C

Explanation: Qualifications for election to Lok Sabha:

- must be a citizen of India
- not less than 25 years of age
- must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency

Source: CSP 2017

Q.7) In the context of Indian history, the principle of 'Dyarchy (diarchy)' refers to

- a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.
- b) Introductions of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
- c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
- d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India Act of 1919 was enacted to satisfy the people of India to some extent. The salient features of the Act were as follows: (a) Preamble: The Act provided for a Preamble that laid down the basic principles and policies upon which it was based. According to it the policy of the British Parliament was – (i) to provide for the increasing association of Indians in every branch of Indian administration, (ii) to develop self governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in British India as an integral part of the empire; (iii) accordingly, the Preamble suggested for a decentralised unitary form of government. The Act divided the functions of government in two

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categories: central and provincial. The provincial subjects were further subdivided into transferred and reserved. Thus, in the provinces a new form of government, dyarchy, was introduced. Dyarchy means dual set of governments, e.g. accountable and non-accountable. In the transferred subjects the Governors were to be assisted by the ministers responsible to the legislature while in the reserved subjects the Governors were to be advised by the councillors who were not accountable to the legislature.

Source: CSP 2017

Q.8) Consider the following Bhakti Saints:

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over in 1526.

- Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539)
- Dadu Dayal (1544–1603)
- Kakarla Tyagabrahmam (1767 – 1847)

Source: CSP 2013

Q.9) Which of the following is/are the characteristic/characteristics of Indian coal?

1. High ash content
2. Low sulphur content
3. Low ash fusion temperature

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The most significant characteristic of Indian coal is its high ash content, which varies from 35 to 45 per cent, compared with that of coal in other parts of the world, which is around 15 per cent. Besides high ash content, another reason for entrained gasifiers (that operate at higher temperatures than fluidised bed gasifiers), commonly used in IGCC plants abroad, being not suitable for Indian coal is its high ash fusion temperature of about 1,500. However, Indian coal's sulphur content is low, about 0.5 per cent.

Source: CSP 2013

Q.10) Disguised unemployment generally means

- a) Large number of people remain unemployed
- b) Alternative employment is not available
- c) Marginal productivity of labour is zero
- d) Productivity of workers is low

ANS: C

Explanation: Disguised unemployment, means that more people are engaged in a job which can be done with less people, normally seen in agriculture where whole family is involved. It means extra people can be removed without affecting the productivity, i.e. their marginal productivity is zero.

Source: CSP 2013

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Pardoning Power of Governor:

1. Pardoning powers of governor are mentioned in Article 161 of Indian constitution.
2. Governor also has the power to pardon death sentences.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Pardoning Power of Governor: Under Article 161, the Governor shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person. But the person should be convicted of any offence against any law which is under the executive power of the State.

Exceptions:

- The Governor cannot pardon the death sentence (the President has the power to do so). But the Governor can suspend, remit or commute the death sentence.
- The Governor cannot grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission, or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial. However, the President can do so.

Source: EPIC, July 2021.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about BH Number Series:

1. BH number series is a newly introduced number series for vehicle registration across India.
2. It is specifically meant for those vehicle owners who shift from one state to another on a regular basis due to their transferable nature of jobs.
3. The BH signifies Bharat and will replace the state letters in the number plate denoting the state of vehicle registration

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

ANS: C

Explanation: BH number series:

- BH number series is a newly introduced number series for vehicle registration across India.
- It is specifically meant for those vehicle owners who shift from one state to another on a regular basis due to their transferable nature of jobs.
- The BH signifies Bharat and will replace the state letters in the number plate denoting the state of vehicle registration, like UP or DL.

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- Under this, vehicles will not require any transfer of registration and will be valid across the country. This will allow free movement of personal vehicles across States/Union Territories.

Source: EPIC, July 2021.

Q.3) Which of the following committee recommended for PESA Act?

- a) Bhuria Committee
- b) L M Singhvi Committee
- c) Gadgil Committee
- d) Ashok Mehta Committee

ANS: A

Explanation: About the PESA Act, 1996:

- The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA Act is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.
- It was enacted by Parliament in 1996 and came into force on 24th December 1996.
- After the Bhuria Committee recommendations in 1995, Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996 came into existence for ensuring tribal self-rule for people living in scheduled areas of India.
- The PESA is considered to be the backbone of tribal legislation in India.
- PESA recognises the traditional system of the decision-making process and stands for the peoples' self-governance.

Source: 9 PM compilation of August 2021.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about 102 Constitution Amendment Act 2018:

1. It inserted Article 338 B which deals with structure of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
2. It inserted Article 342A that gives Governor, the power to notify any particular caste as socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) for grant of quota in jobs and admissions.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 102 Constitution Amendment Act 2018:

- The 102nd Amendment Act received the presidential assent and came into effect in August 2018.
- The amendment inserted Articles 338B and 342A into the Indian Constitution.
- Article 338B deals with the structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- Article 342A deals with the power of the President of India to notify a particular caste as a Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) and the power of the Parliament to change the list.
- The amendment also brings about changes in Article 366.

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- This amendment gave the NCBC a constitutional status. The Commission was originally set up in 1993.

Source: 9 PM compilation of August 2021.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Ordnance Factory Board:

1. It functioned under DRDO.
2. It has been dissolved and the functions have been transferred to seven Defence Public Sector Units (DPSUs).

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

Ordnance Factory Board ("OFB"), functioning under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the first of whose industrial establishments was set up in 1801, will cease to exist from October 1, 2021 and the assets, staff, and operations of its 41 ordnance factories will be transferred to seven defence public sector units (DPSUs).

Source: 9 PM compilation of August 2021

Q.6) Consider the following statements about tribunals in India:

1. Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution.
2. These have been part of original constitution of India.
3. The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalization and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 has dissolved all the tribunals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Tribunals

- It is a quasi-judicial institution that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes.
- It performs a number of functions like adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision and so forth.

Constitutional Provisions:

- Tribunals were not originally a part of the Constitution.
- The 42nd Amendment Act 1976 introduced provision for tribunals in accordance with the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.

The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 dissolves certain existing appellate bodies and transfers their functions to other existing judicial bodies.

Source: 9 PM compilation of August 2021

Q.7) Which of the following feature of Indian constitution is called as –'Instrument of Instructions'?

- a) Fundamental Rights
- b) Fundamental Duties
- c) Directive Principles of State Policy
- d) Preamble

ANS: C

Explanation: The Directive Principles resemble the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935. In the words of Dr B R Ambedkar, the Directive Principles are like the instrument of instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935. What is called Directive Principles is merely another name for the instrument of instructions. The only difference is that they are instructions to the legislature and the executive'.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Cantonment Board:

1. A cantonment board is created by Central government but administered by the state government.
2. Both the elected members and nominated members hold office for a term of five years.
3. The executive officer of the cantonment board is appointed by the president of India.

Which the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area. It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006-a legislation enacted by the Central government. It works under the administrative control of the defense ministry of the Central government. Thus, unlike the above four types of urban local bodies, which are created and administered by the state government, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.

A cantonment board consists of partly elected and partly nominated members. The elected members hold office for a term of five years while the nominated members (i.e., ex-officio members) continue so long as they hold the office in that station. The military officer commanding the station is the ex-officio president of the board and presides over its meetings. The vice president of the board is elected by the elected members from amongst themselves for a term of five years.

The functions performed by a cantonment board are similar to those of a municipality. These are statutorily categorised into obligatory functions and discretionary functions. The sources of income include both, tax revenue and non-tax revenue. The executive officer of the cantonment board is appointed by the president of India. He implements all the resolutions

and decisions of the board and its committees. He belongs to the central cadre established for the purpose.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.9) 'Kedar Nath Singh v Union of India' case is related to which of the following issues?

- a) Sedition
- b) Section 66A of IT Act
- c) Right to privacy
- d) Fundamental duties

ANS: A

Explanation:

In the landmark 1962 Kedar Nath Singh case, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law, it attempted to restrict its scope for misuse. The court held that unless accompanied by an incitement or call for violence, criticism of the government cannot be labelled sedition.

Source: 9 PM compilation of August 2021

Q.10) The term "Industrial Security Annex (ISA)" is often seen in news is a bilateral arrangement between which of the following countries?

- a) India and Russia
- b) India and Japan
- c) India and USA
- d) India and France

ANS: C

Explanation: The Industrial Security Annex (ISA), signed between India and the U.S. at the second 2+2 dialogue in Washington, will open the door for U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector for several multi-billion dollar deals in the pipeline, especially the deal for 114 fighter jets.

- The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which India signed with the U.S. long back.
- It became critical as India opened up the defense sector to the private sector and the Strategic Partnership policy, which has few big military platforms and is reserved for the Indian private sector. U.S. companies are in the race for multi-billion dollar deal for 114 fighter jets, among other deals.

Source: ForumIAS factly

Previous year questions

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it.

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

The Ninth Schedule was added to the Constitution by the first amendment in 1951 along with Article 31-B with a view to provide a “protective umbrella” to land reforms laws to save them from being challenged in courts on the ground of violation of fundamental rights. The SC upheld the validity of Article 31-B and Parliament’s power to place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule.

The Supreme Court has said that laws placed in the Ninth Schedule are open to judicial scrutiny and that such laws do not enjoy a blanket protection. Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule after the Keshwanand Bharti Judgment on April 24, 1973, when it propounded the “basic structure” doctrine, were open to challenge.

Source: CSP, 2018

Q.2) Consider the following pairs:

Tradition	State
------------------	--------------

1. Chapchar Kut festival - Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad - Manipur
3. Thang -Ta dance - Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

Chapchar Kut is the biggest festival of the Mizos and is celebrated in March after completion of jhum operation. It is a spring festival.

Khongjom Parba is a style of ballad singing from Manipur using Dholak (drum) which depicts stories of heroic battle fought by Manipuris against the mighty British Empire in 1891. It is one of the most popular musical art forms of Manipur inciting the spirit of patriotism and nationalism among the people at one time.

Manipur dance has a large repertoire; however, the most popular forms are the Ras, the Sankirtana and the Thang-Ta. Thang-ta dance of Manipur was an evolved from the martial arts drills promoted by the kings of Manipur.

Source: CSP, 2018

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
2. Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the state Governments.
3. Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India manages public debt and issues Indian currency denominated loans on behalf of the central and the state governments under the powers derived from the Reserve Bank of India Act. The RBI is the debt manager for both the Central Government and the State Governments. RBI manages the debt of state governments on the basis of separate agreements.

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 364 day. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of 100/- (face value) may be issued at say 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, 1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of 100/-. The return to the investors is the difference between the maturity value or the face value (that is 100).

Source: CSP, 2018

Q.4) With reference to 'Astrosat', the astronomical observatory launched by India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Other than USA and Russia, India is the only country to have launched a similar observatory into space.
2. Astrosat is a 2000 kg satellite placed in an orbit at 1650 km above the surface of the Earth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANS: D

Explanation: ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory. ASTROSAT will observe universe in the optical, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. India's observatory will be the fourth in space, after the Hubble(USA), Russia's Spektr R and Suzaku of Japan.

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ASTROSAT with a lift-off mass of about 1513 kg was launched into a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator by PSLV-C30. ASTROSAT will observe universe in the optical, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum, whereas most other scientific satellites are capable of observing a narrow range of wavelength band.

Source: CSP, 2016

Q.5) With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following?

- a) Shramana
- b) Parivraajaka
- c) Agrahaarika
- d) Maagadha

ANS: D

Explanation: During Gupta period, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories or epic tales was the work of a different group of people, the sutas and magadhas.

Source: CSP, 2016

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

The 'Club of Rome' is a global think tank which in its 1972 book "Limits to Growth" talked about sustainability; however they didn't propose Sustainable Development Goals. As per the resolution of UN General Assembly in September, 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by 193 member nations.

These developmental schemes are mostly addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are targeted to be achieved by 2030.

Source: CSP, 2016

Q.7) What explains the eastward flow of the equatorial countercurrent?

- a) The Earth's rotation on its axis

- b) Convergence of the two equatorial currents
- c) Difference in salinity of water
- d) Occurrence of the belt of calm near the equator

ANS: B

Explanation:

The easterly Equatorial Counter-Current between about 40 and 100 N may be explained as follows, the overall effect of the Trade Winds is to drive water towards the west, but the flow is blocked by the land masses along the western boundaries. As a result, in equatorial regions the sea-surface slopes up towards the west, causing an eastward horizontal pressure gradient force. Because winds are light in the Doldrums, water is able to flow down the horizontal pressure gradient in a current that is contrary (i.e. 'counter') to the prevailing wind direction. The zone of calm is the necessary and dominant factor here, though other factors play their role as well.

Source: CSP, 2015

Q.8) The substitution of steel for wooden ploughs in agricultural production is an example of:

- a) labour-augmenting technological progress
- b) capital-augmenting technological progress
- c) capital-reducing technological progress
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Labor augmenting is technology that increases skills and productivity of existing labor force (example - teaching people how to use the computer). Capital augmenting technology increases productivity of existing capital goods. In this case, replacement of wooden by steel, increases the productivity of plough.

Source: CSP, 2015

Q.9) Kalamkari painting refers to

- a) A hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- b) A handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North- East India
- c) A block-painted woolen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- d) A hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

ANS: A

Explanation:

Kalamkari painting is a painting done by Kalam (Pen) in Andhra Pradesh it is done on cotton garments, bad covers etc.

Source: CSP, 2015

Q.10) Who/Which of the following is the custodian of the Constitution of India?

- a) The President of India

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- b) The Prime Minister of India
- c) The Lok Sabha Secretariat
- d) The Supreme Court of India

ANS: D

Explanation: Parliamentary democracy as envisaged in the Constitution of India works, at Union and State level. Especially in the making of law, there is direct participation of the legislature and the executive. It is the judiciary that safeguards the interest of citizens by not allowing the other organs to go beyond their role assigned in the Constitution. In brief, the Supreme Court of India is the logical and primary custodian of the Indian Constitution, while also being its interpreter and guardian.

Parliament enjoys the authority to amend the Constitution; the Supreme Court has the authority to examine the validity of constitutional amendments. The Supreme Court ensures that the other branches of government perform their responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution.

Source: CSP, 2015

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements about e-RUPI:

1. e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.
2. It has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Union Health Ministry and the National Health Authority (NHA).

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About e-RUPI: e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is founded on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform.

Purpose: It is designed to be a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution. It seeks to ensure that government schemes reach intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner, with limited touch points between the government and the beneficiary.

Developed by: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Union Health Ministry, and the National Health Authority (NHA).

Features of e-RUPI:

- Firstly, e-RUPI connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface.
- Secondly, it ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the transaction is completed.
- Thirdly, being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payment to the service provider without the involvement of any intermediary.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme:

1. PAT is a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.
2. It is launched by Ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE).

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

ANS: A

Explanation: About Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme:

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Power

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- **Aim:** PAT is a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.
- **Nodal Agency:** It is a flagship programme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).
- **Key Features of the Scheme:** The scheme incentivises industrial units that improve their energy use efficiency. The govt. issues tradable certificates to industrial units which perform and save energy. The certificates can be traded units that are unable to meet the target.
- **Significance of the Scheme:** The scheme has resulted in mitigation of million tons of CO₂ emission.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):

1. They are stockpiles of crude oil maintained by countries to handle the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war, or other calamities.
2. India's strategic crude oil storages are located only at Vishakapatnam and Mangaluru.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: What are SPRs?

They are stockpiles of crude oil maintained by countries to handle the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war, or other calamities. The petroleum reserves are strategic in nature and the crude oil stored in these reserves will be used during an oil shortage event, as and when declared so by the Government.

Who manages Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)?

The construction of the SPR facilities in India is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL). It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Phase I of SPR Programme:

Under Phase 1, three storage facilities were built in underground locations at Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, and Padur. A total of 5.33 million metric tons of storage capacity was created in this phase.

Phase II of SPR Programme:

Under Phase II, the government has approved two additional storage facilities at Chandikhol (Odisha) and Padur (TN) with a total capacity of 6.5 MMT.

Source: EPIC August 2021

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Q.4) The “Draft Scheme of Reconstruction” is recently in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Banking
- b) Railways
- c) Roadways
- d) Port rejuvenation

ANS: A

Explanation: RBI has placed the financially troubled Yes Bank under a moratorium (temporary suspension).

- After placing this bank under a moratorium, the RBI announced a draft Scheme of Reconstruction.
- This scheme entails the State Bank of India (SBI) investing capital to acquire a 49% stake in the restructured private lender.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) With reference to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The chairman and its members are appointed by government.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was set up in 2000 (the Act was passed in 1999) with one chairman and five members (two as full time and three as part-time members) appointed and nominated by the government.

The authority is responsible for the regulation, development and supervision of the Indian insurance industry.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.6) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Committee/Panel : Significance

1. RangaRajanCommittee : Balance of Payments
2. Vijay KelkarCommittee : Goods & Service Tax
3. TaraporeCommittee : Committee on Trade policy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

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Explanation: Besides, economic reforms in various sectors, various Committees were setup from time to time (by the Government of India and by RBI) to discuss policy issues related to international trade and balance of payments.

Some of the important Committees were –

- Committee on Export – Import Policies & Procedures (Alexander Committee, 1978),
- Committee on Trade policy (Abid Hussain Committee, 1984),
- High – level Committee on Balance of Payments (Rangarajan Committee 1993), and
- Committee on Capital Account Convertibility (Tarapore Committee I 1997 & Tarapore Committee II 2006).

In 2003, the Vajpayee government forms a task force under Vijay Kelkar to recommend tax reforms. In 2004, Vijay Kelkar, then advisor to the Finance Ministry, recommends GST to replace the existing tax regime.

Source: TMH Ramesh Singh

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to “National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)”:

1. It is an initiative of RBI and Indian Banks’ Association (IBA).
2. It has launched RuPay, a card payment 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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

- NPCI launched RuPay is an indigenously developed Payment System – designed to meet the expectation and needs of the Indian consumer, banks and merchant ecosystem.
- RuPay supports the issuance of debit, credit and prepaid cards by banks in India and thereby supporting the growth of retail electronic payments in India.

Source: NPCI

Q.8) The Utkarsh 2022, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Regulation and functions of Central Bank
- b) Foreign Trade
- c) Skill development
- d) Doubling farmer’s income

ANS: A

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board finalized a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.

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This medium term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)”:

1. DRTs were created to facilitate the speedy recovery of debt payable to banks and other financial institutions by their customers.
2. DRTs were set up after the passing of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDBBFI), 1993.

Which of the statements above given is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Debt Recovery Tribunals also known as DRTs were created to facilitate the speedy recovery of debt payable to banks and other financial institutions by their customers.

- The banks and financial institutions had been facing problems in recovery of loans advanced by them to individual people or business entities.
- Due to this, the banks and financial institutions started restraining themselves from advancing out loans.
- There was a need to have an effective system to recover the money from the borrower.

DRTs were set up after the passing of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDBBFI), 1993.

Source: Sriram's Economy

Q.10) Consider the following statements about the recently launched DESH STACK e-portal:

1. The e-portal will facilitate citizens to skill, upskill or re-skill through online training.
2. It will provide API-based trusted skill credentials, discovery layers and payment to find entrepreneurial opportunities and relevant jobs.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

DESH STACK e-portal

- DESH stands for “Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood”.
- This portal will be launched for empowering citizens to skill, upskill or re-skill through online training.
- It will also provide API-based trusted skill credentials, discovery layers and payment to find entrepreneurial opportunities and relevant jobs.
- The portal will be aligned with industry requirements and help in improving and strengthening education and skill ecosystem in India.
- This portal will act as a central database of learners signing up for vocational skills and certifications. It will help in creating a continuous learning path for each learner.

Source: The Hindu

Environment

Q.1) Kigali agreement is an amendment to which of the following protocol?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Nagoya Protocol
- d) Cartagena Protocol

ANS: B

Explanation: The Kigali agreement is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol. It aims to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by curbing both their production and consumption. Target: To achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047, this will curb global increase of temperature by up to 0.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs):

1. HFCs are both synthetic and natural.
2. India will complete its phase-down of HFCs by 2032.

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

ANS: D

Explanation: About HFCs

HFCs are entirely man-made. They are primarily produced for use in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulating foams and aerosol propellants, with minor uses as solvents and for fire protection.

HFCs were developed to replace stratospheric ozone-depleting substances (ODS) that are currently being phased out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Though HFCs do not impact the ozone layer, many HFCs are very powerful greenhouse gases, and a substantial number are short-lived climate pollutants with a lifetime of between 15 and 29 years in the atmosphere.

Implementation strategy of India to phase out HFCs: Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules will be amended to allow appropriate control of the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons to ensure compliance with the Kigali Amendment will be done by mid-2024.

India will complete its phase-down of HFCs in four steps from 2032 onwards with a cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 80% in 2047.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.3) In which of the following states/UTs, Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Manipur

ANS: C

Explanation:

Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Gujarat. The sanctuary lies on the Central Asian Flyway. In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the state government to protect the birdlife found in this open-water wetland site.

It is one of the latest Ramsar site.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Deepor Beel wetlands:

1. Deepor Beel is a perennial freshwater lake.
2. It is the only Ramsar site in Assam.

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

ANS: C

Explanation:

About Deepor Beel:

- Deepor Beel is a perennial freshwater lake located 10 km south-west of Guwahati city, Assam.
- It was designated a Ramsar site in 2002.
- It is the only Ramsar site in Assam.
- It is also an important bird sanctuary (IBA) habituating many migrant species.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021:

1. The bill has been introduced by Delhi government in wake of increasing air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
2. The bill dissolves the Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority established in the NCR in 1998.

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

ANS: B

Explanation:

About Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021:

- The Bill provides for the constitution of a Commission for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.
- Adjoining areas have been defined as areas in states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh adjoining the NCR where any source of pollution may cause an adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.
- The bill also dissolves the Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority established in the NCR in 1998.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.6) Consider the following statements about bio-ethanol:

1. First Generation bio-ethanol uses corn seeds and sugarcane as raw material.
2. Second Generation bio-ethanol uses algae grown in wastewater, sewage or salt water to produce bio-ethanol.

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

Bioethanol is an alternative to fossil transportation fuel. It is categorized as first (1G), second (2G) and third generation (3G), based on the source of raw material used for bioethanol production.

- First generation (1G) bioethanol uses corn seeds and sugarcane as raw material. There is not enough food for everyone; so, the use of 1G is a major concern.
- Second generation (2G) bioethanol uses inedible farm waste left over after harvest. Corn cobs, rice husks, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse can all be transformed into cellulose and fermented into ethanol.
- Third generation (3G) bioethanol uses algae grown in wastewater, sewage or salt water to produce bioethanol.

India has been promoting 2G bioethanol to achieve its E20 target.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.7) Which of the following pair (s) is/are not correctly matched?

Lake/wet land	Associated State
1. Lonar Lake :	Madhya Pradesh
2. Keetham Lake :	Uttarakhand
3. Kabartal :	Bihar

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: India has 49 wetlands, the highest in South Asia, with two more added to the list of recognized sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.

- The Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognized Ramsar sites.
- Lonar lake in Maharashtra, the only crater lake of country, and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra.
- "Wetlands are the world's natural water filters and one of the most productive ecosystem on the planet".
- Recently, Kabartal in Bihar's Begusarai district was recognized as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in the state, under the Ramsar Convention, according to the Union Environment Ministry.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) The "Project Tiger" – was launched in which year to protect the tigers?

- a) 1968
- b) 1972
- c) 1973
- d) 1993

ANS: C

Explanation: Project Tiger has been implemented since 1973. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure maintenance of viable population of tigers in India for scientific, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve areas of biological importance as natural heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.

Source: NCERT XI – India Physical Environment

Q.9) The terms "Milpa and Ladang" is related to which of the following?

- a) Nomadic herding
- b) Hunting and gathering
- c) Shifting cultivation
- d) Water Conservation

ANS: C

Explanation: The vegetation is usually cleared by fire, and the ashes add to the fertility of the soil. Shifting cultivation is thus, also called slash and burn agriculture. It is prevalent in

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tropical region in different names, e.g. Jhuming in North eastern states of India, Milpa in Central America and Mexico and Ladang in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Source: NCERT – XII Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.10) Which of the following national park is eastern most one?

- a) Kaziranga national park
- b) Nampdhapa national park
- c) Orang national park
- d) Keibul – Lamjao national park

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: Oxford atlas

History/ Art and Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Dholavira, a Harappan city:

1. It is one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.
2. It is located in Kathiawar peninsula.

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

Recently the UNESCO added Dholavira, a Harappan City, to its list of World Heritage Sites. One of the unique characteristics of Dholavira is that the city lies on the island of Khadir Bet in Great Rann of Kutch.

Few salient features of Dholavira:

- Trade: It was a flourishing manufacturing centre for various Harappan items like beads, bangles, copper objects. These items were traded with other Harappan cities & as well as other civilizations like Mesopotamia
- Water Management: Dholavira had only two seasonal streams which would swell and then dry up quickly. So, administrators paid extreme attention to water management.
 - ✓ Almost 10% of the city was reserved for reservoirs that could store up to 10 million litres of water.
 - ✓ Rivulets were dammed and water was diverted to large reservoirs.
 - ✓ There was a large underground stormwater drain in the city. This collected surface run-off and channeled it to the reservoir.

Source: EPIC August 2021

Q.2) Which among the following chronological order of empires is correct?

- a) Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas, Haryanka
- b) Haryanka, Shishunaga, Nanda, Mauryas
- c) Haryanka, Nanda, Shishunaga, Mauryas
- d) Shishunaga, Nanda, Haryanka, Mauryas

ANS: B

Explanation: Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Kasi was initially powerful. However, Kosala became dominant later.

- A power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vrijji and Avanti. Eventually Magadha emerged as the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
- The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty. The Haryanka dynasty was succeeded by the Shishunaga dynasty.
- The Shishunagas ruled for fifty years before the throne was usurped by Mahapadma Nanda.

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- Chandragupta Maurya Founded the Mauryan Empire after winning over Nanda Dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board class.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

Book	Author
1. Gaha Sattasai	King Hala
2. Sariputrprakarana	Asvaghosha
3. Kamasutra	Bhasa

Which of the pairs 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

ANS: A

Explanation: King Hala is credited with the writing of Gatha Sattasai, a collection of 700 love poems. Written in Maharshtri Prakrit dialect, it has themes similar to those found in the Tamil Sangam poetry.

- Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputrprakarana, in nine acts.
- Among the Hindu treatises, we find the Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra taking final shape by the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Who among the following issued gold coins stamped with image of goddess Lakshmi?

- a) Muhammad Ghori
- b) Balban
- c) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- d) Iltutmish

ANS: A

Explanation: An important aspect of Islam in India was its early acceptance of a long-term coexistence with Hinduism, despite all the violence that occurred in military campaigns, conquests and depredations.

- The conqueror Mu'izzuddin of Ghor had, on some of his gold coins, stamped the image of the goddess Lakshmi.
- Muhammad Tughlaq in 1325 issued a farman enjoining that protection be extended by all officers to Jain priests; he himself played holi and consorted with yogis.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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Q.5) The Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or Muraripukur conspiracy is related to which of the following?

- a) Indian Home Rule Society
- b) Bharat Naujawan Sabha
- c) Anushilan Samiti
- d) Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)

ANS: C

Explanation: The whole Anushilan group was arrested including the Ghosh brothers, Aurobindo and Barindra, who were tried in the Alipore conspiracy case, variously called Manicktolla bomb conspiracy or Muraripukur conspiracy.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.6) 'Tilka Manjhi', a revolutionary freedom fighter and tribal leader is associated with which among the following tribal uprising?

- a) Santhal Hool
- b) Bhil Revolt
- c) Khasi Uprising
- d) Chuar Uprising

ANS: A

Explanation: About Tilka Manjhi:

- Tilka Manjhi organized Adivasis into an army and led the famous Santhal Hool in 1784 against the exploitative British.
- In 1770, there was a severe famine in the Santhal region and people were dying of hunger.
- Tilka Manjhi looted the treasury of the Company and distributed it among the poor and needy.
- Inspired by this noble act of Tilka, many other tribals also joined the rebellion.
- With this began his Santhal Hool, the revolt of the Santhals. He continued to attack the British and their sycophantic allies. From 1771 to 1784, Tilka Manjhi never surrendered.

Source: newsonair.gov.in

Q.7) "Commonweal" news paper was started by which of the following?

- a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- b) Gopala Krishna Goakhle
- c) Annie Besant
- d) M K Gandhi

ANS: C

Explanation:

Annie Besant first came to India on 16 November 1893. When World War I broke out in 1914, she helped launch the Home Rule League to campaign for democracy in India and dominion status within the Empire. She published New India and Commonweal. The Commonweal was a weekly dealing with issues of national reform and New India was a daily newspaper which for fifteen years was a powerful instrument promoting Home Rule and revolutionizing Indian journalism.

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Source: Spectrum Modern India

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the “Servants of India Society”:

1. It was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
2. The aim of the society was to prepare a cadre of selfless workers who were to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915), a liberal leader of the Indian National Congress, founded the Servants of India Society in 1905 with the help of M.G. Ranade.

- The aim of the society was to train national missionaries for the service of India;
- to promote, by all constitutional means, the true interests of the Indian people;
- to prepare a cadre of selfless workers who were to devote their lives to the cause of the country in a religious spirit.

Source: Spectrum Modern India.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. A British Committee of the Indian National Congress (INC) was established in 1885.
2. INC was successfully conducted its 1892 session in London.

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A British committee of the Indian National Congress was established in London in 1889 which had India as its organ.

- Dadabhai Naoroji spent a substantial portion of his life and income campaigning for India’s case abroad.
- In 1890, it was decided to hold a session of the Indian National Congress in London in 1892, but owing to the British elections of 1891 the proposal was postponed and never revived later.

Source: Spectrum’s A Brief History of Modern India

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Q.10) Which among the following organization opposed the abolition of sati?

- a) Arya Samaj
- b) Christian Missionaries
- c) Dharma Sabha
- d) Adi-brahmo Samaj

ANS: C

Explanation: Dharma Sabha: Radhakant Deb founded this sabha in 1830. An orthodox society, it stood for the preservation of the status quo in socio-religious matters, opposing even the abolition of sati. However, it favored the promotion of Western education, even for girls.

Source: Spectrum's A Brief History of Modern India.