

13th April 2019 Live Test conducted by

Vajiram & Ravi

Based On November 2018 & December 2018 Current Affairs

Q1. Which one of the following organizations issues the “Doing Business Report” periodically?

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) WEF
- d) OECD

Answer: a

Explanation:

Doing Business 2019: Training for Reform, released by World Bank, is the 16th in a series of annual reports measuring the regulations that enhance & constraint business activity. Doing Business measures regulations affecting 11 areas of the life of a business. Top 5 economies: (1) New Zealand, (2) Singapore, (3) Denmark, (4) Hong Kong and (5) South Korea. India is ranked at 77 among 190 countries as compared to its rank of 100 in previous edition. India has improved its rank by 53 positions in last two years and 65 positions in last four years. India has improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators: (1) Construction Permit, (2) Trading across Borders, (3) Starting a Business, (4) Getting Credit, (5) getting electricity and (6) enforcing contracts. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/doing-business-report-dbr-2019/5c1c44d520993712583edd73/>

Q2. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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	Islands	States / Union territories
1.	Sadhu	Maharashtra
2.	Hope	Andhra Pradesh
3.	North Sentinel	Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Pair (1) is not correctly matched: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated statue of Unity, a 182-metre statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. **It is built on Sadhu Bet Island on the Narmada river in Gujarat** and overlooking the Sardar Sarovar dam. The statue, 182-Metre-Tall, is described as the world's tallest given as it exceeds the height of China's Spring Temple Buddha by 177 feet. The height of the Statue of Unity is 182 meters as the Gujarat Legislative Assembly has 182 members.

Pair (2) is correctly matched: Hope Island is a small tadpole shaped Island situated off the coast of Kakinada, India, in Bay of Bengal. It is a part of the **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**. It is a relatively young island, formed in the last 200 years into a 16-kilometre-long sand spit from the sand carried by the waters of Godavari delta. The area between Kakinada coast and Hope Island is known as Kakinada Bay. The northern part of the island is called the "Godavari point" which overlooks the entry point into the Bay of Kakinada and the Kakinada harbour. The sandy beaches of Hope island, along with the adjacent Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary are a nesting ground of the Vulnerable Olive Ridley turtle.

Pair (3) is correctly matched: North Sentinel Island is one of the Andaman Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which also includes South Sentinel Island.

It is home to the Sentinelese, a people who have rejected, often violently, any contact with the outside world. The Sentinelese have been fiercely hostile to outside contact. They have been mostly left alone even from colonial times, unlike other tribes such as the Onges, Jarawas and Great Andamanese, because the land they occupy has little commercial attraction. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/sentinelese-tribe/5c1dd6082099373549b81178/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/coringa-wildlife-sanctuary/5c1c8837209937125766ba44/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/sardar-patel-statue-of-unity/5c1c4881209937125ac4ca3a/>

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Kepler space telescope:

- (1)** It was launched in 2009 by the European Space Agency.
- (2)** Its objective is to determine how common Earth-like planets are around the Milky Way galaxy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: Kepler mission was launched in 2009 by **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**.

Statement (2) is correct: Its objective is to **determine how common Earth-like planets are around the Milky Way galaxy**. The spacecraft hunted for alien worlds using the 'transit method, noting the tiny dips in stars' brightness caused by orbiting planets crossing their faces. Kepler's sole scientific instrument is a photometer that continually monitors the brightness of approx 150,000 main sequence stars in a fixed field of view.

During the 9 and half year mission, it discovered more than 2,600 of the roughly 3,800 exoplanets — the term for planets outside our solar system — that have been documented in the past two decades. Its findings indicated that distant star systems are populated with billions of planets, and even helped pinpoint the first moon known outside our solar system.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/kepler-telescope/5c1c47f9209937125766ba16/>

Q4. Which of the following Union ministries has launched PAiSA portal for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission?

- a) Ministry of Finance
- b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched PAiSA portal for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries **under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission**. PAiSA is an acronym for “Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access”.

It is a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The web platform has been **designed and developed by Allahabad Bank which is the Nodal bank**. All 35 states/UTs & all Scheduled Commercial Banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks are expected to be on board the PAiSA portal the year end. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/paisa/5c1df8e22099373549b81385/>

Q5. Which of the following initiatives have been taken under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme?

- (1) Safe City project
- (2) Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)

(3) Organized Crime Investigative Agency (OCIA)

(4) Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCf)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 2, 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d

Explanation:

Nirbhaya Fund is a dedicated fund set up by the Government of India in 2013, for the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. **This is a non-lapsable amount which is parked with the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.** The projects under the home ministry sanctioned under the Nirbhaya Fund include a central helpline called the **National Emergency Response System (NERS), the Organized Crime Investigative Agency (OCIA), the Central Victim Compensation Fund and the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC).**

Point (1) is correct: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved a **Safe City project for Lucknow for strengthening women safety in public places.** With this, Lucknow has become the first among the eight cities to be cleared for the Safe City project. This approval is a part of a plan by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to implement Safe City projects in 8 selected cities, namely, **Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow. It is under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.**

Point (2) is correct: Himachal Pradesh became the first state to launch pan-India single emergency number '112' under **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) project.** It is under Nirbhaya Fund scheme. All emergency numbers, including 100 for police, 101 for fire, 102 for ambulance and disaster response have been integrated into countrywide one number, 112. This service removes the need for citizens to remember multiple helpline numbers. The system would identify the location of the person in distress connecting through voice or data and immediate assistance would be provided.

Point (3) is correct: 'Organised Crime Investigation Agency (OCIA)' established with an objective to **investigate, collect intelligence of the cases of human trafficking and other organized crimes**, train the law enforcement officers and coordinate in rescue and rehabilitation of the victims. It is under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.

Point (4) is correct: The government has introduced a **Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) scheme**, to enable support to victims of rape, acid attacks, human trafficking and women killed or injured in the cross border firing. It is under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/emergency-response-support-system-erss/5c1e088c2099374046f12c8f/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/safe-city-project/5c1c4b73209937125766ba1b/>

Q6. Consider the following statements with reference to the capital adequacy ratio (CAR):

- (1)** It is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.
- (2)** The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the **ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities**. It is measured as: $\text{Capital Adequacy Ratio} = (\text{Tier I} + \text{Tier II} + \text{Tier III (Capital funds)}) / \text{Risk weighted assets}$. The risk weighted assets take into account credit risk, market risk and operational risk. It is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.

Statement (2) is correct: The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%. However, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9% while Indian public sector banks are emphasized to maintain a CAR of 12%.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/capital-adequacy-ratio-car/5c1c557a209937125ac4ca52/>

Q7. Consider the following statements with reference to the partial credit enhancement (PCE):

(1) It is a mechanism through which a bond issuer attempts to improve its debt or credit worthiness by providing an additional comfort to the lender.

(2) Banks are allowed to provide PCE to bonds issued only by systemically important NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Partial credit enhancement (PCE) is a mechanism through which a bond issuer attempts to improve its debt or credit worthiness by providing an additional comfort to the lender.

Statement (2) is incorrect: It provides the bond purchaser reassurance that the borrower will honour its repayment through additional collateral, insurance, or a third-party guarantee. Reserve Bank of India has now been decided to allow banks to provide PCE to bonds issued by the **systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFC-ND-SIs) registered with the Reserve Bank of India and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) registered with National Housing Bank.**

The proceeds from the bonds backed by PCE from banks should only be utilised for refinancing the existing debt of the NBFC-ND-SIs/HFCs. The exposure of a bank by way of PCEs to bonds issued by each such NBFC-ND-SI/HFC shall be restricted to one percent of capital funds of the bank within the borrower exposure limits.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/partial-credit-enhancement-pce/5c1c566420993712583edd87/>

Q8. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society:

- (1) It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- (2) Prime Minister of India is the President of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Union Government has made four new appointments to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society, in place of the four previous members.

Statement (1) is correct: The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It was established in 1964 in the memory of First Prime Minister (PM) of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964). It is located in the Teen Murti House, Delhi (the official residence of the first PM).

Statement (2) is correct: Prime Minister of India is the President of the NMML. It is responsible for all the key decisions regarding the functioning of the memorial. It has four major constituents namely – Memorial Museum, Library on modern India, Centre for Contemporary Studies and Nehru Planetarium.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/nehru-memorial-museum-and-library-society/5c1c84b0209937125766ba31/>

Q9. With reference to the Privilege Motion, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister.
- (2) The Speaker/ Rajya Sabha Chairperson can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Privilege Motion is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister. It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach of privilege of the House or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts. Its purpose is to censure the concerned minister.

Statement (2) is correct: The Speaker/ Rajya Sabha chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion **himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.** If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook governs privilege.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/breach-of-privilege/5c1c850e20993712583edd92/>

Q10. With reference to “Dhokra”, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique.
- (2) Dhokra craft from odisha was presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) 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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Dhokra is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique. Dhokra Damar tribes are the traditional metalsmiths of West Bengal and Odisha. Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting.

Statement (2) is incorrect: In May 2018, Dhokra craft from West Bengal was presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/dhokra/5c1c83f8209937125ac4ca59/>

Q11. The Vice President of India has recently launched the 'India For Humanity' to commemorate the birth anniversary of which of the following leaders at Lilongwe, Malawi?

- a) Swami Vivekanand
- b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- c) Mahatma Gandhi
- d) APJ Abul Kalam

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Vice President of India has launched the 'India For Humanity' to commemorate the 150 th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi at Lilongwe, Malawi. **"India For Humanity" seeks to celebrate the great values of humanism which Mahatma Gandhi embodied right through his life.** The program has been launched by the government to take the message of Mahatma Gandhi to all parts of the world over the next one year. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/india-for-humanity-programme/5c1c8a5520993712583edda2/>

Q12. In the context of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), consider the following statements:

(1) It is a constitutional post and functions under the supervision, control and overall guidance of the Election Commission of India.

(2) Each state of India must be assisted with a CEO during the State Assembly elections as well as the general elections.

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: A Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) functions under the supervision, control and overall guidance of the Election Commission of India. **It is not a constitutional post.**

Statement (2) is correct: According to Representation of the People's Act 1950 and 1951 **each state of India must be assisted with a CEO during the State Assembly elections as well as the general elections.** The CEO also has a significant role to play during the elections to the office of the President and the Vice-President of India.

Eligibility for becoming a CEO are he must be an Indian Administrative Services Officer, he/she must not be a member of any political party for the duration of his tenure and he/she must not hold any office of profit.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/chief-electoral-officer-ceo/5c1cc7592099373249ebfe55/>

Q13. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

(1) It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies.

(2) India has been elected as a Member of the ITU Council for the period 2019-2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies. It was established in 1865 and is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP).

Statement (2) is correct: Recently, ITU decided to set up the ITU South Asia Area Office and Technology Innovation Centre in New Delhi. India has been elected as a Member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for another 4-year term (2019-2022). The elections to the Council were held during the ongoing ITU Conference 2018 at Dubai, UAE.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/international-telecommunications-union-itu/5c1cc8592099373249ebfe59/>

Q14. The Dakhan Dark Blue Tiger, Oriental Blue Tiger, Double-branded Black Crow and Indian Common Crow, were in the news recently, they are the classification of which of the following?

- a) Tiger
- b) Butterflies
- c) Crow
- d) Shark

Answer: b

Explanation:

A citizen science project has been launched to map the migratory path of butterflies in south India, making it the first such initiative in the country. It is a joint initiative of The Ferns Naturalists' Society (FNS), Wayanad, Travancore Natural History Society (TNHS), and the Malabar Natural History Society (MNHS). Usually butterfly migration starts during October-November with the onset of the northeast monsoon, from the

plains to the ghats, and during April-May, just before the advent of the southwest monsoon, from the ghats to the plains.

A recent study revealed that four species of milkweed butterflies are mainly involved in the migration — **the Dakhan Dark Blue Tiger, Oriental Blue Tiger, Double-branded Black Crow and Indian Common Crow.**

Butterfly migration is one of the least studied natural phenomena in the country. What is needed is a careful documentation of migration over a prolonged period from a given area. For this, a wide network and coordination among butterfly watchers from different localities are needed. That's why the initiative has been launched. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/butterfly-migration-in-south-india/5c1db4762099373548e64ec5/>

Q15. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	Tribes	States
1.	Chenchu	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Gonds	Telangana
3.	Dongaria Khond	Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Pair (1) is correctly matched: The Chenchus are a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha. They are an aboriginal tribe whose traditional way of life has been based on hunting and gathering. The Chenchus speak the Chenchu language, a member of the Dravidian language family.

Pair (2) is correctly matched: The Gonds are the tribal community mostly found in the Gond forests of the central India. They are widely spread in the Chhindwara District of **Madhya Pradesh**, Bastar district of **Chhattisgarh** and also in the parts of **Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Orissa.**

Pair (3) is correctly matched: The **Dongria Kondhs of Odisha**, one of India's **vulnerable tribal groups**, have been living in the **foothills of Niyamgiri** for centuries. Niyamgiri is their supreme God. They call the hills Niyam Raja. Niyamgiri hill range that spans across Rayagada and Kalahandi districts is also one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the Eastern Ghats of India.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/lambadas/5c1cd5bc2099373249ebff18/>

Q16. The term 'cabotage' is often mentioned in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) Railways
- b) Shipping
- c) Telecommunication
- d) Patent rights

Answer: b

Explanation:

Cabotage is the trade transit of a vessel along the coast (coastal trading), from one port to another within the territorial limits of a single nation. Cabotage rules by many nations impose restrictions for movement of domestic cargo by foreign flag vessels. The policy of cabotage restriction for movement of domestic cargo by foreign flag vessels along the coast of India is governed as per Section 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended from time to time. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/cabotage/5c1cd6862099373249ebff52/>

Q17. With respect to the "Tissue chips", consider the following statements:

- (1) It is a small device that contains human cells in a 3D matrix.
- (2) It is developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (2) is incorrect: NASA is planning to send small devices containing human cells in a 3D matrix — known as tissue chips or organs-on-chips — to the International Space Station (ISS) to test how they respond to stress, drugs and genetic changes. NCATS at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) and the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) in partnership with NASA are planning to test tissue chips in microgravity aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Statement (1) is correct: Tissue chips, also known as Organs on chips or a micro-physiological system. It is a small device (about the size of a thumb drive) that contains human cells in a 3D matrix. A potential application of tissue chips is in development of new drugs.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/tissue-chips-in-space/5c1d1542209937354633ad68/>

Q18. Consider the following statements with reference to the Monogenic diabetes:

- (1) It is a rare type of diabetes that's caused by a single gene mutation.
- (2) Monogenic diabetes can only be found in adults.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

A National Monogenic Diabetes Study Group has been formed to identify cases of monogenic diabetes across the country. It is supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) and Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC) will be the national coordinating centre for the study group.

Statement (1) is correct: Monogenic diabetes is a rare type of diabetes that's caused by a single gene mutation. Monogenic diabetes has characteristics of both Type 1 and Type 2, and is often misdiagnosed as one of those more common types. While Monogenic diabetes results from mutations (changes) in a single gene, the type 1 and type 2 diabetes are caused by multiple genes.

Statement (2) is incorrect: There are two main forms of Monogenic diabetes – Neonatal diabetes is usually diagnosed in infants from birth to 6 months, though diagnosis may occur later in some cases. **MODY (Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young) is usually diagnosed in late childhood to adulthood.** Neonatal diabetes is usually diagnosed in infants from birth to 6 months, though diagnosis may occur later in some cases. MODY (Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young) is usually diagnosed in late childhood to adulthood.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/national-monogenic-diabetes-study-group/5c1d0cbc2099373549b80ff2/>

Q19. Which of the following best describes the term “SpiNNaker”, recently seen in news?

- a) A deadly virus prevalent in eastern Africa
- b) Spy satellite launched by USA
- c) A Humanoid Robot
- d) World's largest neuromorphic supercomputer

Answer: d

Explanation:

SpiNNaker, the world's largest neuromorphic supercomputer designed to work in the same way as the human brain, has been switched on for the first time. It is a massive parallel computing platform designed to simulate the human brain. It uses 1 million ARM processors in a massively parallel computing platform based on Spiking Neural Networks (SNN). SpiNNaker machine is capable of completing more than 200

million actions per second, with each of its chips having 100 million transistors. It is designed by the researchers at University of Manchester. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/spiking-neural-network-architecture-spinnaker/5c1d1c88209937354633ad77/>

Q20. Consider the following statements with reference to the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

(1) The board is appointed by the President of India in keeping with the Reserve Bank of India Act.

(2) The board members are not responsible for setting the interest rate, but will provide a broader guidance to the central bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: The Reserve Bank's affairs are governed by a central board of directors. **The board is appointed by the Government of India in keeping with the Reserve Bank of India Act.**

Statement (2) is correct: The board members are **not responsible for setting the interest rate, but will provide a broader guidance to the central bank.** The Board is also to recommend to the government the design, form and material of bank notes and also when and where they can serve as legal tender.

Value Addition

Official Directors	Full-time: Governor and not more than 'four Deputy Governors'. The Governor and Deputy Governors hold office for not more than '5 years'.
Non-Official Directors	Nominated by Government: ten Directors from various fields and two Government Officials. The ten directors hold office for '4 years', and the govt. officials hold office as long as the government sees fit. Others: Four Directors - one each from four local boards.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/central-board-of-rbi/5c1d1b6e209937354633ad74/>

Q21. India is a member of which of the following?

- (1) Asian Patent Attorneys Association
- (2) East Asia Summit
- (3) Asia-Pacific economic corporation
- (4) Association of South-East Asian Nations plus Six summits

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Point (1) is correct: Asian Patent Attorneys Association is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). It is dedicated to promoting and enhancing Intellectual Property protection in the Asian region (including Australia and New Zealand). The members include some of Asia's leading practitioners of intellectual property law. **India joined as**

the 14th member country of APAA. APAA is the biggest Association of IP Professionals in India.

Point (2) is correct: The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum comprising Asia-Pacific countries. EAS meetings are held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings. The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2005. Initially it comprised 16 countries based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. **These were 10 ASEAN countries, India, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea.** In 2011, at the Sixth EAS, the Membership was expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States. Since its establishment, ASEAN has held the central role and leadership in the forum.

Point (3) is incorrect: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an **inter-governmental forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies** that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. **India is not a member of APEC.** India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that **India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.**

Point (4) is correct: ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It is a political and economic union of 10 Asian countries aimed at promoting the economic growth, political stability of individual countries, and regional stability among its members. Apart from economic and political growth it also focuses on social progress, social-cultural evolution among member countries, and provision of mechanisms and strategies to resolve differences peacefully. **It was formed in 1967, by Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia.** Membership has been extended to include Vietnam, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei. **ASEAN plus six includes countries like China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.** Hence, option c) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/asean/5c1d191e209937354633ad6f/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/east-asia-summit/5c1d9e2b2099373549b81020/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/asian-patent-attorneys-association-apaa/5c1dc53e209937354633add2/>

Q22. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

	Buddhist Monasteries	States
(1)	Tawang	Arunachal Pradesh
(2)	Ghoom	Sikkim
(3)	Diskit	Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Incredible India campaign has goofed up on Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh, suggesting that the 338-year-old monastery, was built just three decades ago in 1980-81.

Pair (1) is correctly matched: Tawang monastery is the largest monastery in India and second largest in the world after the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. **It is located in Tawang city of Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh.** Tawang Monastery is known in Tibetan as Gaden Namgyal Lhatse, which translates to "celestial paradise in a clear night". It belongs to the Gelug school of Mahayana Buddhism. The main temple in the monastery is known as the Dukhang.

Pair (2) is not correctly matched: Yiga Choeling Monastery of Ghoom is one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in Darjeeling, West Bengal. The Ghoom Monastery, built in 1875 by a lama called Sherab Gyatso, is the largest in Ghoom. The Monastery belongs to the Yellow Hat sect also known as the Gelupka. One of the key attractions inside the monastery is the 15-foot model of the Lord Buddha which is known as the Maitreya Buddha or the Gyalwa Shampa which means the Buddha of the future or the Coming Buddha. This is one of the biggest and oldest statues of Buddha in Darjeeling area. This statue was created with clay that was all brought from Tibet.

Pair (3) is not correctly matched: Diskit Monastery also known as Deskit Gompa or Diskit Gompa is the oldest and largest Buddhist monastery in the Nubra Valley

of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. It belongs to the Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism. It was founded by Changzem Tserab Zangpo, a disciple of Tsong Khapa, founder of Gelugpa, in the 14th century.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/tawang-monastery/5c1df5de2099373548e6534a/>

Q23. With reference to the Paris Peace Forum, consider the following statements:

(1) It is an annual international summit founded in 1946 under the aegis of United Nations.

(2) It is an initiative taken to serve as a painful reminder of the two world wars and the current threats to peace and harmony in the current world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: The Paris Peace Forum is an international summit founded in 2018. It is an annual event. Every year, the event has been attended by representatives from Nations, international organizations civil society for the purpose of promoting peace.

Statement (2) is correct: The initiative taken by the French government is to serve as a painful reminder of the two world wars and the current threats to peace and harmony in the current world.

Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu represented India at the inaugural Paris Peace Forum.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/paris-peace-forum/5c1d2139209937354633ad7c/>

Q24. With respect to “Know India Programme”, consider the following statements:

(1) Its objective is to make Indian origin youth aware about India, its cultural heritage, art and to familiarize them with various aspects of contemporary India.

(2) Under this Scheme preference is given to PIOs from Girmitya countries.

(3) It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct. Know India Programme (KIP) is a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India, through a three-week orientation programme.

Statement (2) is correct. In 2016, the scheme was revamped to increase duration from 21 to 25 days, with a 10- day visit to one or two States and preference given to PIOs from Girmitya countries. "Girmityas" or Indentured Laborers, is the name given the Indians who left Indian in the middle and late 19th Century to serve as laborers in the British colonies, where the majority eventually settled. Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago are known as Girmitya Countries.

Statement (3) is incorrect. It is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/know-india-programme/5c1d9db9209937354633ad96/>

Q25. Consider the following statements with reference to the Barnard's Star:

(1) It is a type of red dwarf.

(2) Barnard's star b is the second closest known exoplanet to our Sun.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Barnard's Star is a type of faint, low-mass star called a red dwarf. Red dwarfs are considered to be the best places to look for exoplanet candidates, which are planets outside our solar system. It is located about 6 light-years away from Earth in the constellation of Ophiuchus. It is the fourth nearest known individual star to the Sun (after the three components of the Alpha Centauri system).

Statement (2) is correct: Barnard's star b is the second closest known exoplanet to our Sun. The closest lies just over four light-years from Earth. That exoplanet, Proxima b, orbits around the red dwarf Proxima Centauri.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/barnards-star-b/5c1da66e2099373548e64e93/>

Q26. Which of the following country has announced that it would create the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Solutions on AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance)?

- a) India
- b) Sweden
- c) Germany
- d) Denmark

Answer: d

Explanation:

Denmark has announced that it would create the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Solutions on AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance). The international research centre would focus on the fight against antibiotics resistance which affects almost half a million people worldwide. The Centre is expected to open in Denmark in 2019. To establish the centre, Denmark has signed a memorandum of understanding in Seattle (United States) with the international network of research centres CGIAR. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/international-centre-for-interdisciplinary-solutions-on-amr-antimicrobial-resistance/5c1da5e62099373548e64e8d/>

Q27. Which among the following ministry has proposed the establishment of the “Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)”, recently seen in news?

- a) Ministry of Railways
- b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- c) Ministry of Civil Aviation
- d) Ministry of Shipping

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has proposed the establishment of a Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) off the south-west coast of India to prevent collision incidents between merchant vessels and fishing vessels off the coast of Kerala.

The proposed TSS lanes will be located at a distance of about 90 nautical miles west of Mangalore in Karnataka, with the lanes leading in a south-easterly direction to the southernmost tip of India and ending about 40 nautical miles off south of Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

This is expected to **shift the density of merchant traffic away from the coast** which is expected to result in more sea room for fishing vessels to operate safely. This proposal has been drawn taking into consideration past collision incidents off the Indian coast and optimum sea routes off the coast of Kerala. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/traffic-separation-scheme-tss/5c1dad53209937354633adac/>

Q28. With respect to “GROWTH-India telescope”, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is located at the Devasthal Observatory at Nainital in Uttarakhand.
- (2) It is country's first robotic telescope.
- (3) It is a joint project of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Which of the statements given above are *not* correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the Above

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: The GROWTH-India telescope has made its first scientific observation which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion. The GROWTH-India telescope is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe transient events in the universe. **It is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle in Ladakh.**

Statement (2) is correct: It is **the country's first robotic telescope** and it is the first one designed to observe dynamic or transient events in the universe.

Statement (3) is incorrect: It is a joint project of the Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B). The project is fully funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the PIRE project, administered by Indo US Science and Technology Forum.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/growth-india-telescope/5c1db77b2099373548e64ec9/>

Q29. With respect to the "Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) program", consider the following?

- (1) The objective is to encourage and inspire faculty of Higher Education Institutions by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities.
- (2) It is launched under the Innovation cell of Ministry of Human Resource and Development in New Delhi.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to **encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and processes resulting in innovative activities in their formative years.**

Statement (2) is correct: Ministry of Human Resource Development has **established an "Innovation cell"** at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It is launched under the Innovation cell of Ministry of Human Resource and Development in New Delhi.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/institutions-innovation-council-iic-program/5c1dd5a82099373549b81175/>

Q30. Consider the following statements with reference to the virtual climate summit (VCS):

- (1)** It has been organised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- (2)** VCS was the first global political meeting to be held online.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: The first virtual climate summit is the **brainchild of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine**, whose low-lying Pacific island nation will be

under the rising seas if global warming continues. **It has been organised by the Marshall Islands using online technology to remain carbon neutral.** The summit was **held by the 48-nation Climate Vulnerable Forum, headed by Heine.** Its objective is to encourage the international community to keep **global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.**

Statement (2) is correct: The event was the **first global political meeting to be held online.** The eco-friendly event stands in stark contrast to the UN's COP21 climate talks in Paris in 2015 which generated an estimated 43,000 tons of carbon dioxide, although much of this was later offset through carbon-credit schemes.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/virtual-climate-summit/5c1dd8ce2099373549b811b7/>

Q31. Consider the following statements:

- (1)** They are mainly feeding on small mammals, reptiles, birds and Fish.
- (2)** They are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, which prohibits hunting, trade or any other form of utilisation of the species or their body parts.
- (3)** Their international trade is restricted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (4)** In the Rig Veda they are referred to as Uluka and Khargala.

Above statements describes which of the following birds?

- a)** Owls
- b)** Sri Lankan Frogmouth
- c)** Ortolan bunting
- d)** Shaheen Falcon

Answer: a

Explanation:

Owls are mostly nocturnal birds of prey, feeding mainly on small mammals, but also taking reptiles, insects, birds and Fish. Owls live in a variety of habitats, from deserts to forests and including human habits in most parts of the world. Most owl species are nocturnal and adapted for Hunting as dusk or in the dark. Of 30 species of owls found in India, 15 are traded illegally. The spotted owl (*Athene brama*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*)

and rock eagle-owl (*Bubo bengalensis*) are the most commonly recorded species in the illegal trade.

Owls are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, which prohibits hunting, trade or any other form of utilisation of the species or their body parts. Their international trade is restricted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). **In the Rig Veda (an ancient Indian sacred collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns), owls are referred to as Uluka and Khargala. The owl is associated with the goddess Chamunda and appears in iconography as her vehicle from the 5-6th century AD onwards.** The report titled 'Imperilled Custodians of the Night' was released by TRAFFIC (the wildlife trade monitoring network) in 2010. It looks into illegal owl trade in India. Owls, especially those with “ears” (tufts), are thought to possess the “greatest magical powers” and Diwali is claimed to be the most auspicious time for sacrificing an owl.

The Sri Lankan Frogmouth has a unique habitat in Sri Lanka and is also believed to be present in the Thattekad bird sanctuary (Kerala). It is also found in Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra. It is usually found on the western side of the Western Ghats. However, its recent spotting in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary is the first instance of being found on the eastern side of the Western Ghats. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**



Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/owl/5c1c8601209937125766ba36/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/sri-lankan-frogmouth/5c1dc62b209937354633add4/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/ortolan-bunting/5c1dd9512099373548e65123/>

Q32. Which of the following lakes have been included under the National Lake Conservation Project (NLCP) for restoration?

- (1)** Pushkar Lake
- (2)** Wular Lake
- (3)** Kodaikanal Lake
- (4)** Bhimtal Lake

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Union Ministry for Environment included Pushkar Lake as one of the lakes under the National Lake Conservation Project (NLCP) for restoration.

Kodaikanal and Bhimtal lakes are also included under the National Lake Conservation Project (NLCP) for restoration. However Wular Lake is not included in the list.

The objective of the National Lake Conservation Project (NLCP) is to **restore and conserve the urban and semi-urban lakes of the country** degraded due to waste water discharge into the lake and other unique freshwater eco systems, through an integrated ecosystem approach. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/pushkar-camel-fair/5c1dd50f209937354633ae75/>

Q33. Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards 2018 are presented by which one of the following organisations?

- a)** United Nation Environment programme (UNEP)
- b)** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

c) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

d) World Animal Protection

Answer: a

Explanation:

The **Asia Environment Enforcement Awards** recognize excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions/teams combating transboundary environmental crime, such as illegal trade in wildlife, chemicals or waste, in Asia. **In 2018, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India won the “Asia Environment Enforcement Awards, 2018 in innovation category”** for excellent work done in combating transboundary environmental crime. The 2018 Awards are presented by **UN Environment programme (UNEP)** in partnership with the UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, USAID, Freeland Foundation, and the Government of Sweden. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/asia-environmental-enforcement-awards-2018/5c1ddf792099373548e65130/>

Q34. With respect to the “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) scheme”, consider the following statements:

(1) Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast and various other services to end-users.

(2) It will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of the nine sub-schemes of the umbrella scheme ACROSS during 2017-2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 1450 crore. **Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast**

so as provide various services to end-users like Agro-meteorological Services, Aviation service, Environmental monitoring services, Hydro-meteorological services etc.

Statement (2) is incorrect: It will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in an integrated manner through its four institutes namely –India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/atmosphere-climate-research-modelling-observing-systems-services-across/5c1ddf712099373549b811c5/>

Q35. Consider the following statements with reference to the Prasar Bharati:

- (1) It is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act.
- (2) The Central government appoints the Chairman of Prasar Bharati.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Prasar Bharati is a **statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act**. Its objective is to conduct public broadcasting services intended to inform and entertain the public. It comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement (2) is incorrect: **The President of India appoints the Chairman and the other Members, except the ex officio members, nominated member and the elected members.** Board meetings must be held at least once in every three months each year.

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has decided to overhaul its workforce, a long-pending exercise that was recommended by the Sam Pitroda Committee in 2014. The last time the Prasar Bharati hired was in 1996.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/prasar-bharati/5c1de67d2099373548e652f5/>

Q36. Which of the following best describes “LISOWICIA BOJANI”, recently seen in news?

- a) It is the world’s largest monolithic structure.
- b) It is the world’s largest bird.
- c) It is the smallest prehistoric painting in India.
- d) It is the largest-known non-dinosaur land animal during the Triassic Period.

Answer: d

Explanation:

Scientists announced the surprising discovery in Poland of **fossils of a four-legged animal called Lisowicia bojani that demonstrated that dinosaurs were not the only large animals on Earth during the Triassic Period.** It had a body shaped like a rhinoceros and a beak like a turtle. About the size of an elephant, **it is the largest dicynodont known.** It was the **largest-known non-dinosaur land animal alive at its time** and weighed 9 tons. The genus is named after the village Lisowice in Poland, where the only known specimen was found, while the specific name bojani honours Ludwig Heinrich Bojanus (1776–1827), a German naturalist who did pioneering work in comparative anatomy and paleontology. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/lisowicia-bojani/5c1de96f209937354633b2a6/>

Q37. “Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI)” was recently in the news in which context?

- a) It is a technique to limit rising temperatures through Solar Radiation Management.
- b) It is a technique of cloud seeding.
- c) It is a technique to improve efficiency of commercial flights.
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

In a new paper published in Environmental Research Letters researchers discuss the potential to use a new solar geoengineering technique known as Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI) to help cool the Earth over a long period of time. It is an **unproven and hypothetical geo- engineering technique that could limit rising temperatures** through Solar Radiation Management. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/stratospheric-aerosol-injection-sai/5c1dedaf2099373548e6533c/>

Q38. Consider the following statements with reference to the saltwater crocodiles:

- (1)** It is the earth's largest living crocodilian and is the largest of all living reptiles.
- (2)** It is listed as vulnerable on IUCN Red list of threatened species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

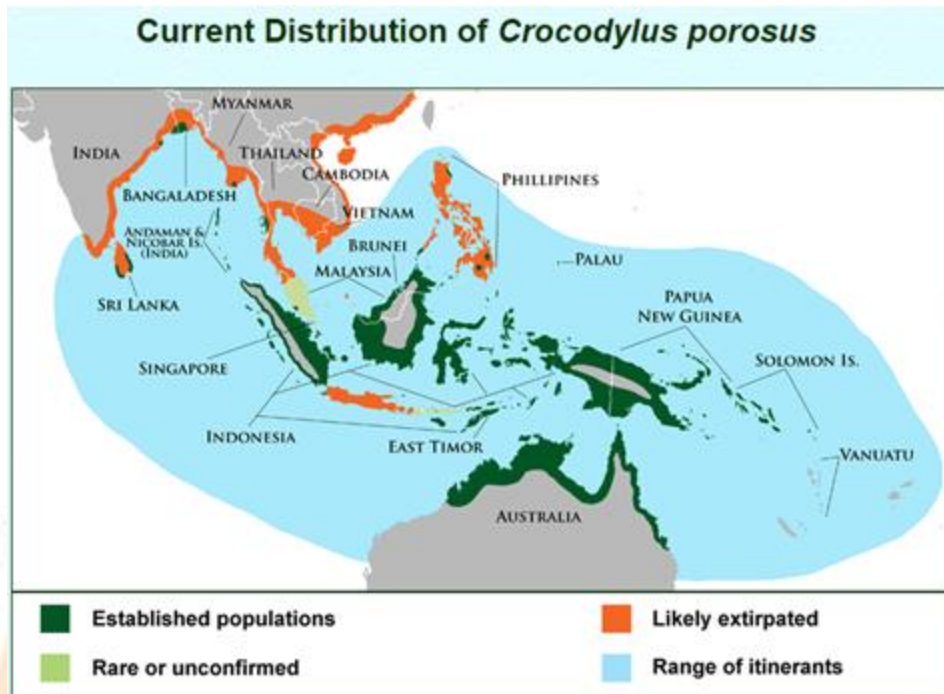
- a)** 1 only
- b)** 2 only
- c)** Both 1 and 2
- d)** Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Saltwater crocodiles are earth's largest living crocodilian. It is the largest of all living reptiles. Average-size males reach 17 feet and 1,000 pounds. In India, the **Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP)**, Odisha, the **Sundarbans and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands** are the prime habitats of the saltwater crocodile. They have an enormous range, populating the brackish and freshwater regions of eastern India, Southeast Asia, and northern Australia. They are excellent swimmers and have often been spotted far out at sea

Statement (2) is incorrect: It is listed as Least Concern on IUCN Red list of threatened species. The estimated number of the saltwater crocodiles increased from 96 in 1976 to 1,640 in 2012 in India due to the rear and release programme established under the Indian Crocodile Conservation Project.



Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/saltwater-crocodiles/5c1df423209937354633b2c1/>

Q39. With respect to “e-pashuhat”, consider the following statements:

- (1) It aims to connect breeders and farmers regarding availability of bovine germplasm.
- (2) It has been launched under the scheme of “National Animal Germplasm Program”.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: E-Pashuhaat portal **aims to connect breeders and farmers regarding availability of bovine germplasm.** It was launched in 2016. Now, a mobile application - e-pashuhat (GPMS Transportal) - has been created and integrated with UMANG application.

Statement (2) is incorrect: The portal has been launched under the scheme “National Mission on Bovine Productivity” by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF).

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/e-pashuhat/5c1df8752099373548e65350/>

Q40. The Mekedatu multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir across which among the following rivers?

- a) Vagai
- b) Godavari
- c) Wardha
- d) Cauveri

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Mekedatu multi-purpose project involves building a **balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district, Karnataka.**

It envisages supplying drinking water to Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts, besides generation of power. The project was conceived in 2013 and in 2017, the Karnataka state cabinet decided to implement it. The project, however, ran into a controversy after Tamil Nadu opposed it on the grounds that the project violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

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Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/mokedatu-project/5c1e03b9209937354633b2d3/>

Q41. Which of the following best describes the term 'Beaching', recently seen in news?

- a) It is a phenomenon in which whales and dolphins strand themselves on land, usually on a beach.
- b) A rare phenomenon in which the sea disappears and comes back on a daily basis.
- c) A natural phenomenon which turns sea water an electric neon blue as it washes up on beach.
- d) None of the above.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Cetacean stranding is commonly known as Beaching. **It is a phenomenon in which whales and dolphins strand themselves on land, usually on a beach.** Exact reasons are not known. Several explanations have been proposed, but none have so far been universally accepted as a definitive reason for the peculiar behavior. Beached whales often die due to dehydration, collapsing under their own weight, or drowning when high tide covers the blowhole. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Recently over 140 pilot whales have died after beaching themselves on Stewart Island in New Zealand.



Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/beaching/5c1e098b2099374046f12c92/>

Q42. “Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS)” which was in news recently, is launched by which of the following organisations?

- a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- c) European Space Agency
- d) China National Space Administration (CNSA)

Answer: a

Explanation:

Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) is an earth observation satellite built around ISRO’s Mini Satellite2 (IMS-2) bus weighing about 380kg. The primary goal of HysIS is to capture High Definition images of Earth’s surface i.e. to study the earth’s surface in both the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The mission life of the satellite is five years. It has been indigenously designed and built. Data from the satellite will be used for a wide range of applications including agriculture, forestry, soil/geological environments, coastal zones and inland waters, etc. Globally, only a few nations have their operational satellites of its class that can capture crystal clear images of the earth's surface for varied applications. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/hysis/5c1e10cb2099374046f12cae/>

Q43. Which of the following subjects comes under the Concurrent list?

- (1) Public Health and Sanitation
- (2) Agriculture
- (3) Electricity
- (4) Bankruptcy and insolvency

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Union Finance Minister has suggested new Federal institution for healthcare and agriculture sectors similar to the GST Council to coordinate State and Central policies and schemes. Similar to the GST Council, Indian healthcare and agriculture sectors also need a federal institution to coordinate State and Central policies and schemes. It is because, while **“BOTH HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE ARE STATE SUBJECTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION”**, centrally sponsored schemes are carried out in both sectors. **Electricity and Bankruptcy and insolvency comes under concurrent list.**

The Constitution of India has provided for a division of powers between the Central and state governments. Under the Seventh Schedule, **there are three lists – the Union, State and Concurrent. The Union List has a range of subjects under which the Parliament may make laws. This includes defence, foreign affairs, railways, banking, among others.**

The State List lists subjects under which the legislature of a state may make laws. **Public order, police, public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries, betting and gambling are some of the subjects that come under the state.** The Concurrent List includes subjects that give powers to **both the Centre and state governments.** Subjects like **Education including technical education, medical education and universities, population control and family planning, criminal law, prevention of cruelty to animals, protection of wildlife and animals, forests etc.** However, given that there can be conflict when it comes to laws passed by Parliament and state legislatures on the same subject, the Constitution provides for a central law to override a state law. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/federalism/5c1e11532099374044d3fc8c/>

Q44. Which among the following is not listed under the recently updated UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage?

- a) India's Thimithi tradition
- b) Jamaica's Reggae music genre
- c) Ireland's Hurling game
- d) Japan's Raiho-shin rituals,

Answer: a

Explanation:

UNESCO's Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage is a list which is prepared to promote the intangible heritage and contribute to a greater awareness of their importance and was formed after Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect.

UNESCO added the Reggae music genre that originated in Jamaica to its collection of "intangible cultural heritage" deemed worthy of protection and promotion. Reggae is a music genre that originated in Jamaica in the late 1960s. The term reggae denotes a particular music style that was strongly influenced by traditional mento as well as American jazz and Rhythm and Blues and evolved out of the earlier genres ska and rocksteady.

Hurling, from Ireland, also made the grade. This field game, which dates back 2,000 years, features strongly in Irish mythology. Played by two teams using a wooden 'hurley' stick and a small 'sliotar' ball. hurling is considered as an intrinsic part of Irish culture

and plays a central role in promoting health and wellbeing, inclusiveness and team spirit.

Japan's Raiho-shin rituals, used to admonish laziness and teach children good behavior, was another winner. Stemming from folk beliefs that deities visit communities and usher in the new year or season, local people dress in outlandish costumes and visit houses as deities.

The Thimithi or firewalking ceremony is a Hindu festival originating in Tamil Nadu. It is not a part of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. Hence, option a) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/unesco-intangible-cultural-heritage/5c1df6a32099373549b8137e/>

Q45. Which of the following are the initiatives or joint effort of the NITI Aayog?

- (1) Agricultural Marketing and Farm Friendly Reforms Index
- (2) Atal Innovation Mission
- (3) Himalayan State Regional Council
- (4) CITIIS Challenge

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Point (1) is correct: NITI Aayog brings out an **Agricultural Marketing and Farm Friendly Reforms Index**, rating States on their implementation of such reforms. In the initial edition of that Index in 2016, Maharashtra stood first in the rankings, followed by Gujarat.

Point (2) is correct: NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **UNICEF, India** announced winners of the **Young Champions Awards** on the occasion of the National Children's Day (November 14). Six most innovative solutions adopted by the

children from across the country were given away the Atal Tinkering Labs Young Championship Awards, instituted by the Niti Ayog's Atal Innovation Mission and the UNICEF India. **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.** AIM is mandated to create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country and revolutionizing the innovation eco-system - touching upon the entire innovation life cycle through various programs.

Point (3) is correct: NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council' to ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region. It aims to monitor the implementation of action points identified in the five thematic reports released by the NITI Aayog in August, 2018 for sustainable development of Himalayas.

Point (4) is incorrect: CITIIS is the main component of the '**Program to fund Smart City projects through a Challenge Process**' launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). CITIIS aims to foster sustainable, innovative and participatory approaches to build projects within the Smart Cities Mission. Under the CITIIS component, up to 15 projects will be selected through a challenge process in 100 Smart Cities.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/himalayan-state-regional-council/5c1da5e02099373548e64e8b/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/young-champions-awards/5c1da1362099373549b81029/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/ease-of-doing-agri-business-index/5c1d2ea52099373549b81013/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/cities-investments-to-innovate-integrate-and-sustain-citiis/5c3239d4209937396eda4689/>

Q46. Which of the following countries are located in a region called Horn of Africa?

- (1) Djibouti
- (2) Eritrea
- (3) Chad
- (4) Somalia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Horn of Africa is a peninsula in Northeast Africa. It extends hundreds of kilometers into the Arabian Sea and lies along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden. The area is the easternmost projection of the African continent. The Horn of Africa denotes the region containing the countries of **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.**

Recently, Djibouti President inaugurated a centre of entrepreneurship and innovation built by India, a first of its kind.

Djibouti is a country located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea in the north, Ethiopia in the west and south, and Somalia in the southeast. The remainder of the border is formed by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden at the east. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**



Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/djibouti/5c1de6f22099373549b81359/>

Q47. In the Natya Shastra, compiled by Bharat Muni dated 200 B.C.-200 A.D., musical instruments have been divided into four main categories on the basis of how sound is produced.

In this context which of the following is/are Percussion instruments?

(1) Oordhwaka

(2) Tabla

(3) Rabab

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

In the **Avanaddha Vadya category of instruments (Percussion instruments)**, sound is produced by striking the animal skin which has been stretched across an earthen or metal pot or a wooden barrel or frame. Drums have been divided into different categories on the basis of their shapes and structure as also the position and placement for playing. **The main categories are Oordhwaka, Ankya, Alingya and the waisted or the Damaru family of drums.**

Point (1) is correct: The Oordhwaka drums are placed vertically before the musician and sound is produced by striking them with sticks or the fingers.

Prominent among these are the **Tabla pair and Chenda.**

Point (2) is correct: The Tabla pair is a set of two vertical Oordhwaka drums. The right side is called the Tabla and the left, the Bayan or Dagga. The Tabla has a wooden body with a covering of animal skin, this is held together with leather straps.

Point (3) is not correct: Rubab, robab or rabab is a lute-like musical instrument originating from Afghanistan. Seen in many variants across central Asia, the rabab arrived in Kashmir from Afghanistan many centuries ago. Compared to the **seven strings of the Afghan rabab, the Kashmiri version has 22 strings, with two strings crafted out of goat gut through an elaborate process.** The rubab is a short-necked

lute whose body is carved out of a single piece of wood. The instrument is made from the trunk of a mulberry tree, the head from an animal skin such as goat, and the strings are either gut (from the intestines of young goats) or nylon. **The rubab is regarded as the first instrument used by Sikhism.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/rabab/5c1dd492209937354633ae72/>

Q48. Which of the following treaty/protocol/ convention is/are legally binding on the member nations?

- (1) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- (2) Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)
- (3) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Point (1) is correct: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future.

Point (2) is not correct: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a non-binding agreement for the better management of migration, was adopted by the United Nations member countries in December 2018. The major goal of the compact is to assist nation states to frame well-managed migration policies. It aims to better manage migration at local, national, regional, and global levels, including reducing the risks and vulnerabilities that migrants or refugees face at different stages of their journey.

Point (3) is correct: The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the landmark multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the

production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS). When released to the atmosphere, those chemicals damage the stratospheric ozone layer, Earth's protective shield that protects humans and the environment from harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation from the sun. It is the only treaty with universal ratification – all 197 member countries of the United Nations have now accepted legally binding obligations to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/global-compact-for-migration/5c1debd2099373549b8136c/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/global-compact-for-migration/5c1c4378209937125766ba0f/>

Q49. In which of the following categories of protected areas in India, public entry is allowed for collection of timber or grazing of cattle?

- (1) National Parks
- (2) Wildlife Sanctuaries
- (3) Reserved Forests
- (4) Protected Forests

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Point (1) is not correct: National park is an area with enough ecological, geo-morphological and natural significance with rich fauna and flora, which is designed to protect and to develop wildlife or its environment. **The rights of the people living inside this Category 2 type of protected areas are tightly regulated** and activities like **grazing, hunting, forestry or cultivation, encroachment, destruction of habitats and other activities are strictly prohibited.** But most national parks provide

outdoor recreation, camping opportunities and are designed to educate the public on the importance of conservation activities.

Point (2) is correct: Wildlife Sanctuaries or wildlife refuges are home to various endangered species of wild animals and these animals are safe from hunting, predation or competition and safeguarded from extinction in their natural habitat. Wildlife sanctuaries and national parks attract millions of tourists and nature lovers. **In Wildlife sanctuaries harvesting timbers, cultivation, collection of forest products are allowed with permission.**

Point (3) is not correct: Reserve Forests are under the direct supervision of the government and no public entry is allowed for collection of timber or grazing of cattle.

Point (4) is correct: Protected Forests are looked after by the government, but the local people are allowed to collect fuel-wood/timber and graze their cattle without causing serious damage.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/malkangiri-forest/5c1c8a1220993712583edda0/>

Q50. Which one of the following is the motive of 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' that was in news recently?

- a)** It aims to inculcate Intellectual Property Right (IPR) culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- b)** It aims to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities.
- c)** It aims to reduce the imported share of 'indigenous' weaponry down from 48% to 20% in next 10 years.
- d)** It is an annual Indo-Mongolia joint training exercise to promote military associations between India and Mongolia.

Answer: a

Explanation:

Recently Union Defence Minister formally launched 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti'. The Department of Defence Production has instituted a new framework titled '**Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**' which aims to inculcate Intellectual Property Right (IPR)

culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme. The event showcased salient inventions and innovations achieved by DRDO, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) which have resulted in successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) applications. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/mission-raksha-gyan-shakti/5c1e041c209937354633b2d5/>

Q51. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), which was in news recently, is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in which of the following?

- a) Uranium
- b) Diamonds
- c) Plutonium
- d) Gold

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that **regulates trade in rough diamonds with the aim of preventing the flow of conflict diamonds, while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.** It outlines the rules that govern the trade in rough diamonds. The KPCS has developed a set of minimum requirements that each participant must meet. Recently European Union (EU) handed over the Chairmanship of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) to India from 1st January, 2019. India is the founding member of KPCS. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/kimberley-process/5c2546142099374b3096dd5c/>

Q52. Global Wage Report often mentioned in the news, is prepared by which of the following organizations?

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)

d) International Labour Organization (ILO)

Answer: d

Explanation:

Recently, the International Labour Organization (ILO) published its annual Global Wage Report 2018/19 with the theme “What lies behind gender pay gaps”. It is the sixth report in the series. Global wage growth in 2017 fell to its lowest rate since 2008, far below levels before the global financial crisis. Key findings are globally women continue to be paid approximately 20 % less than men. Mothers tend to have lower wages compared to non-mothers due to labour market interruptions, reductions in working time, employment in more family-friendly jobs with lower wages, or stereotypical promotion decisions at enterprise level. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/global-wage-report-201819/5c25456d2099374b316fc90c/>

Q53. Consider the following statements with reference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

(1) It is an international environmental treaty adopted in 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

(2) At Conference of the Parties (COP) 17, it was decided that Parties to furnish information Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and shall be submitted every two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty **adopted on 9 May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and a key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. India is a Party to the UNFCCC, which enjoins upon all Parties to furnish information, in the form of a National Communication regarding implementation of the Convention.

Statement (2) is correct: At COP17, it was decided that Biennial Update Reports (BURs) shall be submitted every two years. The 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17) was held in **Durban, South Africa** to establish a new treaty to limit carbon emissions. Union Cabinet has approved the Submission of India's Second Biennial Update Report (BUR) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) towards fulfilment of the reporting obligation under the Convention.

The BUR contains five major components — National Circumstances; National Greenhouse Gas Inventory; Mitigation Actions; Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Needs and Support Received and Domestic Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) arrangements

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/india-and-climate-change/5c324603209937396c893977/>

Q54. “Maiabalaena nesbittae”, which was in news recently, is related to which of the following?

- a) New species of burrowing frogs discovered from the Western Ghats.
- b) A prehistoric 15-foot-long whale fossils unearthed in Oregon.
- c) The recently discovered fossil of a new dinosaur species in South Africa.
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

Maiabalaena nesbittae, the prehistoric 15-foot-long whale that sucked prey into its mouth has been identified as the missing piece concerning the evolution of today's huge filter-feeding whales. The researchers described fossils unearthed in **Oregon of a whale named Maiabalaena nesbittae. They called are Maiabalaena**, meaning “**mother whale**,” a surprising intermediate evolutionary stage between modern baleen whales and their toothed ancestors. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/maiabalaena-nesbittae/5c2546d72099374b316fc90f/>

Q55. The foetus gets all the supplies of oxygen and nutrients essential for growth from:

- a) Ovary
- b) Uterus
- c) Fallopian tubes
- d) Placenta

Answer: d

Explanation:

The placenta is a temporary organ that connects the developing fetus via the umbilical cord to the uterine wall. The placenta **supplies all the oxygen and nutrients essential for growth of the foetus**, and if it fails to develop properly the pregnancy can end with a low birthweight baby or even a stillbirth. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Recently, scientists have created **artificial mini-placentas** in the laboratory after nearly three decades of research, offering hope for tackling miscarriages, stillbirths and premature births as well as transform pregnancy research. The new 'mini-placentas' are a cellular model of the early stages of the placenta.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/mini-placenta/5c2547e02099374b2ed3c157/>

Q56. With respect to “Digital Sky Platform”, consider the following statements:

- (1)** It has been developed as the national unmanned traffic management (UTM) platform for registering and operating drones.
- (2)** All types of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) are required to register on the Digital Sky Portal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Civil Aviation Ministry launched the “Digital Sky Platform” for the registration of drones and their operators. In August 2018, India had announced the release of its Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS), popularly referred to as drones in India.

Statement (1) is correct: The Digital Sky Platform has been developed as the national unmanned traffic management (UTM) platform that implements “No Permission, No Take-off” (NPNT) for registering and operating drones. Users will be required to do a one-time registration of their drones, pilots and owners.

Statement (2) is incorrect: For every flight (exempted for Nano category), users will have to take permission to fly on a mobile app and an automated process permits or denies the request instantly. If a model aircraft with maximum take-off weight up to 2 kg without any payload is being flown below 200 ft inside closed premises, then there is no need of any sort of permission.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/digital-sky-platform/5c254cd52099374b316fc91a/>

Q57. Which of the following diseases are caused by viruses?

- (1) Measles
- (2) Acute flaccid myelitis
- (3) Chikungunya
- (4) Tetanus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Point (1) is correct: Measles is a **highly contagious viral disease**. It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. **Measles & Rubella Initiative (M&RI) is a partnership formed in 2001** of the American Red Cross, CDC, the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO). It is committed to achieving the Global Vaccine Action Plan goal of measles and rubella elimination in at least five WHO regions by 2020.

Point (2) is correct: Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare but serious condition. It affects the nervous system, specifically the area of the spinal cord called gray matter, which causes the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak. **Enteroviruses are the main cause of the disease in children.** AFM is characterised by muscle weakness, weak limbs, pain, absent reflexes. These symptoms look much like those of polio. Most cases of AFM have been in children, but it can develop in adults.

Point (3) is correct: Chikungunya is a viral disease (genus Alphavirus) which is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes, most commonly, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, two species which can also transmit other mosquito-borne viruses, including dengue. These mosquitoes can be found biting throughout daylight hours, though there may be peaks of activity in the early morning and late afternoon. It causes fever and severe joint pain. The disease shares some clinical signs with dengue and Zika, and can be misdiagnosed in areas where they are common.

Point (4) is incorrect: Tetanus, also called lockjaw, is a serious infection caused by *Clostridium tetani*. This bacterium produces a toxin that affects the brain and nervous system, leading to stiffness in the muscles. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/chikungunya/5c1c8585209937125ac4ca5b/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/measles/5c254b822099374b316fc915/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/acute-flaccid-myelitis/5c2555b22099374b2ed3c17a/>

Q58. Which one of the following statements best describes the “Oumuamua”, recently in news?

- a) It is one of the four largest moons of Jupiter.
- b) It is the first known interstellar object to pass through the Solar System.
- c) It is the most distant body ever observed in the Solar System, at 120 astronomical units (AU) from the Sun.

d) It is the only moon with an internally generated magnetosphere.

Answer: b

Explanation:

A new study by Harvard scientists has suggested that the first interstellar immigrant “Oumuamua” discovered in our solar system may have been an alien probe sent to investigate Earth, and not a comet as previously thought.

Oumuamua is the first known interstellar object to pass through the Solar System. The object was discovered on Oct. 19, 2017 by the NASA-funded Pan-STARRS1 telescope. Initially assumed to be a comet, it was reclassified as an asteroid a week later, then the first of a new class of interstellar objects. The object is believed to be at least a quarter-mile (400 meters) long and cigar-shaped, with a length roughly ten times longer than the width. It is similar to many asteroids found in our solar system – dense, possibly rocky or even metallic. The object’s surface is somewhat reddish due to effects of irradiation from cosmic rays over millions of years. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/oumuamua/5c1d1d1d2099373548e64e61/>

Q59. With respect to “VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS”, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

(1) It is India’s first semi-high speed indigenous train.

(2) It is the first locomotive-less train in the 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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Union Government has renamed Train 18 as Vande Bharat Express after taking suggestions from the general public.

Statement (1) is correct: It is **India's first semi-high speed train** which will run from Delhi to Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kmph by covering the distance in 8 hours. It is has been built by the **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai**.

Statement (2) is correct: It is equipped with world class passenger amenities like On-board wifi entertainment, GPS based passenger information system, CCTVs, bio-vacuum toilets, rotating chairs in executive class, etc. **It is also the first locomotive-less train in the country.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/train-18/5c2551e92099374b2ed3c171/>

Q60. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hampi:

- (1) The Group of Monuments at Hampi were declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- (2) It became the centre of the Kakatiya dynasty capital in the 14th century.
- (3) One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide Chariot streets flanked by the rows of Pillared Mandapas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Hampi festival is annually held, generally in the first week of November for 3 days and it is the largest festival at Hampi.

Statement (1) is correct: Hampi also referred to as the Group of Monuments at Hampi, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. It is located near the modern-era city of Hosapete in Ballari district of Karnataka.

Statement (2) is incorrect: It became the **centre of the Vijayanagara Empire capital** in the 14th century.

Statement (3) is correct: The Vitthla temple is the most exquisitely ornate structure on the site and represents the culmination of Vijayanagara temple architecture. It is a fully developed temple with associated buildings like Kalyana Mandapa and Utsava

Mandapa within a cloistered enclosure pierced with three entrance Gopurams. **Another unique feature of temples at Hampi is the wide Chariot streets flanked by the rows of Pillared Mandapas, introduced when chariot festivals became an integral part of the rituals.** The stone chariot in front of the temple is also testimony to its religious ritual. Most of the structures at Hampi are constructed from local granite, burnt bricks and lime mortar.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/hampi-festival/5c254e232099374b3096dd6f/>

Q61. With respect to “G20 summit 2018”, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

- (1)** It was the first G20 summit hosted in South America.
- (2)** India will host the G20 Summit In 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union. G20 leaders meet annually. In addition, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet regularly during the year to discuss ways to strengthen the global economy, reform international financial institutions, improve financial regulation and implement the key economic reforms that are needed in each member economy. The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

Statement (1) is correct: The 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit was recently held in the city of **Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America.** The Summit Theme is “Building consensus for fair and sustainable development”.

Statement (2) is correct: It was decided that India will host the G20 Summit In 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/g-20-summit-2018-buenos-aires/5c254ff52099374b2ed3c16a/>

Q62. With reference to the “Soyuz Mission”, consider the following statements:

- (1) Soyuz spacecraft is a product of the Soviet space program.
- (2) Presently it is the only means of reaching the International Space Station (ISS).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Soyuz is a series of spacecraft designed for the Soviet space program by the Korolev Design Bureau in the 1960s that remains in service today. The Soyuz spacecraft is launched on a Soyuz rocket. All Soyuz spacecraft are launched from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in **Kazakhstan**.

Statement (2) is correct: The Soyuz is the **only means of reaching the International Space Station (ISS)** since the U.S. retired the space shuttle in 2011.

A Soyuz rocket carrying Russian, American and Canadian astronauts took off from Baikonur, Kazakhstan and reached orbit, in the first manned mission to ISS since a failed launch in October.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/soyuz-mission/5c25578b2099374b3096dd88/>

Q63. With reference to the “Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018”, consider the following statements:

- (1) The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.

(2) The Report is published by World Health Organisation (WHO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Global Nutrition Report (GNR) 2018 was recently released. GNR 2018 is a peer-reviewed, independently produced annual publication on the state of the world's nutrition. The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013. The first series was published in 2014.

Statement (2) is correct: The Report is published by **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

Globally, stunting among children has declined and there has been a slight decrease in underweight women. Overweight and obesity among adults are at record levels with 38.9% of adults overweight or obese. One third of all women of reproductive age have anaemia and **women have a higher prevalence of obesity than men**. Millions of women are still underweight.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/global-nutrition-report-gnr-2018/5c255b482099374b2ed3c180/>

Q64. The Mangdechhu hydroelectric project is a 750MW run-of-river power plant being built on the Mangdechhu River, it is a joint project of India and which of the following countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Nepal
- c) China
- d) Bhutan

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Mangdechhu hydroelectric project is a **750MW run-of-river power plant being built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District of central Bhutan**. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA), which is constituted by **the Indian Government and the Royal Government of Bhutan, is developing the project**. Most of the electricity generated by the project will be used to meet the energy requirements of Bhutan and the surplus electricity will be exported to India. The project is funded by the Government of India through a 70% loan and a 30% grant. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/mangdechhu-power-project/5c255aff2099374b316fc931/>

Q65. With respect to “GSAT-11”, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

- (1)** It is the ISRO's lightest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite.
- (2)** It will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: GSAT-11 – ISRO's heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite was successfully launched from the Spaceport in French Guiana. It is the **heaviest** (weighing 5,854-kg), **largest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite of India**. It is the third in a series of four satellites that will provide the country broadband connectivity of over 100 gigabytes per second.

Statement (2) is correct: It will **boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project**, which is part of Digital India Programme.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/gsat-11/5c3155a7209937396c893892/>

Q66. Consider the following statements about the “interest rate derivative (IRD) market”:

(1) It is a financial instrument with a value that increases and decreases based on movements in interest rates.

(2) An interest rate swap (IRS) is a type of Interest Rate Derivative (IRD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft guidelines on NRI participation in the interest rate derivative (IRD) market.

Statement (1) is correct: An interest-rate derivative is a **financial instrument with a value that increases and decreases based on movements in interest rates.**

Interest-rate derivatives are often **used as hedges** by institutional investors, banks, companies and individuals to protect themselves against changes in market interest rates, but they can also be used to increase or refine the holder's risk profile. An interest rate swap (IRS) is a type of Interest Rate Derivative (IRD).

Statement (2) is correct: An interest rate swap is a contract between two counterparties who agree to exchange the future interest rate payments they make on loans or bonds. These two counterparties are banks, businesses, hedge funds, or investors. **According to RBI, rupee Interest Rate Swap (IRS) market is the most liquid among interest rate derivative markets.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/interest-rate-derivative-ird-market/5c3151e7209937396eda45b8/>

Q67. World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently released ‘REPLACE’ strategy which provides six strategic actions to ensure the quick and complete elimination of which of the following?

- a) Malaria
- b) Zika Virus
- c) Transfat
- d) Nipah Virus

Answer: c

Explanation:

WHO released 'REPLACE' strategy which provides six strategic actions to ensure the quick and complete elimination of industrially-produced trans fats from the food supply by 2023. Increased intake of trans fat (>1% of total energy intake) is associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease mortality and events. Trans fat intake is responsible for more than 500,000 deaths from coronary heart disease each year around the world. REPLACE provides a six-step action package for the global elimination of trans fat. This package supports governments to ensure the prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced trans fat from the food supply. The practical, step-by step action package is supported by an overarching technical document that provides a rationale and framework for this integrated approach to trans fat elimination. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

The Health Department in Kerala launched an initiative to reduce Trans Fat in commercially available foods in the state. The initiative will receive technical support from the **World Bank, WHO and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/trans-fat/5c1dc4972099373549b81068/>

Q68. Consider the following statements with reference to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP):

- (1)** The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations focused on hunger alleviation and food security.
- (2)** It was first established in 1961 after the 1960 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference and has its headquarters in Rome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The 160 th session of the FAO Council, approved India's membership to the executive board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.

Statement (1) is correct: The World Food Programme is the **food-assistance branch of the United Nations which strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition**, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the need for food aid itself and it has set the target of achieving '**Zero Hunger by 2030**'.

Statement (2) is correct: It was first established in **1961 after the 1960 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference** and has its headquarters in **Rome**.

The UN World Food Programme and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have formed a strategic partnership to support efforts to eliminate hunger globally by 2030 - one of the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2). The parties will also create a Digital Transformation Working Group to determine priorities, assess new opportunities, and review progress on projects.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/un-world-food-program-wfp/5c31edd9209937396c8938a1/>

Q69. A series of uprisings of people referred to as 'Yellow vest movement' are happening in which one of the following countries?

- a) Russia
- b) Qatar
- c) France
- d) USA

Answer: c

Explanation:

The **yellow vests movement or yellow jackets movement** is a populist, grassroots political movement for economic justice that began in **France in November 2018**. In French it is known as "**Mouvement des GILETS JAUNES**". It is known as so because

the people taking part wear high-visibility vests of Yellow colour, which all drivers in France are required to keep in their cars. People are protesting because of anger over rising diesel fuel prices and taxes, high cost of living and the perception that the government was passing a disproportionate amount of the austerity bill and ecology bill on to the working and middle class. **Hence, option c) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/yellow-vests-movement/5c254ac02099374b316fc913/>

Q70. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Windrush generation', that was in the news recently?

- a) Post-war Caribbean migrants to the UK.
- b) Technology of high power, geared transmissions developed by windmill designers.
- c) Series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in late 2010.
- d) None of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

Windrush generation refers to migrants from the Caribbean Commonwealth who had come to the U.K. at a time when they had the right to remain indefinitely in Britain, but had had their rights questioned under a toughened immigration regime. **Those arriving in the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries have been labelled the Windrush generation.** The Windrush generation is named after one of the many vessels that ferried some half a million people from the Caribbean islands to the U.K. in the late 1940s. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

In 2018, the Windrush scandal in Britain, concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation caused a lot of controversy. The Windrush generation, has fallen victim to a ruthless policy that stipulates annual net immigration objectives. In its wake, people with cultural links to the region but who have lived all their lives in the U.K. are having to provide proof of residence for every year of their stay of up to 60-70 years. Inability to furnish such evidence has been met with job losses, threat of deportation, withdrawal of welfare benefits and even denial of critical medical care.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/windrush-generation/5c31f1e9209937396eda45d9/>

Q71. Consider the following statements with reference to the Talcum:

(1) It is a clay mineral consisting of hydrated potassium silicate.

(2) It is widely used in cosmetics, paints and ceramics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

A draft assessment by Canada's public health department says talcum powder is harmful to the lungs and can cause ovarian cancer.

Statement (1) is incorrect: Talc, or Talcum, is a **clay mineral consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate**.

Statement (2) is correct: It is widely used in **cosmetics, paints and ceramics**.

Talcum powder is among the most widely known talc-based self-care products. In India, a large number of consumers rely on talcum powder and the market is estimated to be worth about ₹700 crore. Breathing in products containing talc can lead to coughing, difficulty in breathing, decreased lung function and scarring of the lung tissue.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/talcum/5c31f25d209937396eda45dc/>

Q72. AKASH, SPYDER, OSA-AK-M and IGLA are which of the following class of missiles?

a) Surface to Air Missile

b) Air to Surface Missile

c) Air to Air Missile

d) Surface to Surface Missile

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a first-of-its-kind exercise code-named **CROSS BOW-18**, from the Air Force Station at Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh. CROSS BOW-18 was the combined guided weapons firing exercise of Surface to Air Missile. During it, firing of four different class of missiles – **AKASH**, **SPYDER**, **OSA-AK-M** and **IGLA** was successfully carried out in December 2018 during day and night in an integrated networked environment. This exercise was undertaken to improve the combat skills of missile Squadron crew. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/cross-bow-18/5c31f3ad20993742be51b9ee/>

Q73. With reference to the Chang'e-4, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is recently launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- (2) It is humanity's first probe to explore the far side of the moon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: China launched the Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission, which will land a rover on the far side of the moon. The Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission — named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology launched on a Long March 3B rocket from the southwestern Xichang launch centre.

Statement (2) is correct: Chang'e-4 is humanity's first probe to explore the far side of the moon. No lander or rover has ever touched the surface there.

The vast majority of the far side of the Moon never faces the **Earth due to tidal locking**, and humanity's first glimpse of that hemisphere did not come until the Soviet Luna 3 mission sent back images in 1959. The mission will target an area within the **South Pole-Aitken Basin (SPA)**, a huge, ancient and scientifically significant impact crater on the far side of the Moon. It has a diameter of around 2,500 kilometres and could contain exposed material from the Moon's mantle.

Value Addition

Tidal locking is the phenomenon by which a body has the same rotational period as its orbital period around a partner. So, the Moon is tidally locked to the Earth because it **rotates in exactly the same time as it takes to orbit the Earth**. That is why we only see one side of the Moon. If both bodies are of comparable size and are close together, both bodies can be tidally locked to each other – this is the case in the **Pluto-Charon system**. Tidal locking is a natural consequence of the gravitational distortions induced by a body on another.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/change-4/5c31f3e6209937396c8938b3/>

Q74. With respect to “Gharana Wetland”, consider the following statements:

- (1)** It is located on the edge of arid Banni grasslands and the marshy salt flats of the Rann of Kutch in Kutch district.
- (2)** It has international recognition as one of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: Gharana wetland is located along the **border with Pakistan in RS Pura tehsil of Jammu district**. It is surrounded by wetlands of Makwal, Kukdian, Abdullian and Pargwal where hundreds of migratory birds, including the bar-headed goose species arrive during the winter. It is a **notified wetland conservation reserve under the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act 1978**.

Statement (2) is correct: It has international recognition as one of the **Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the world**, declared by **BirdLife International (UK)** and **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/gharana-wetland/5c31f85d20993742be51b9f9/>

Q75. Which one of the following is the best description of “India Day”, that was in the news recently?

- a) It marks the induction of first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) into the Indian Navy.
- b) An event organized to discuss vision and achievements of RMNCH+A.
- c) It is observed to honour Kargil War's Heroes.
- d) None of the above

Answer: b

Explanation:

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the ‘India Day’, an official **event organized to discuss vision and achievements of RMNCH+A**. India Day event provided a platform for expressing the vision and achievements of RMNCH+A by major stakeholders from national, state, and community. It aimed to share and learn from the good practices and innovations implemented by different States/UTs and organisations to address various health challenges around maternal and child health. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Value Addition

In India, **Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent (RMNCH+A) programme was launched in 2013** to address the major causes of mortality among women and children as well as the delays in accessing and utilizing health care and services. Since the roll out of RMNCH+A, India’s maternal mortality rate (MMR) has fallen from 556 in the year 1990 to 130 in 2014–16 (SRS data). RMNCH+A is aligned with the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and its key programming tenets is to end preventable deaths, ensure well-being and expand enabling environments, popularly known as the **Survive, Thrive and Transform approach.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/india-day/5c320638209937396eda45f0/>

Q76. With reference to the “Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)”, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is a global member-owned cooperative society under Belgian law.
- (2) It facilitates funds transfer and also holds accounts for its members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

SWIFT India appointed ex-SBI chief **Arundhati Bhattacharya** as the new chairman of its board.

Statement (1) is correct: SWIFT stands for “**Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication**”. It is a **global member-owned cooperative society under Belgian law**. It is a **secure financial message carrier**. Its core role is to provide a secure transmission channel so that Bank A knows that its message to Bank B goes to Bank B and no one else.

Statement (2) is incorrect: It **does not facilitate funds transfer** rather, it sends payment orders, which must be settled by correspondent accounts that the institutions have with each other. It **does not hold accounts for its members**. It does not perform any form of clearing or settlement. It is used by financial institutions like Banks, Depositories, Exchanges, Corporate Business Houses etc.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/swift/5c3206be209937396eda45f2/>

Q77. Consider the following statements with reference to the Extradition:

- (1) In India, the extradition of a fugitive from India to a foreign country or vice-versa is governed by the provisions of Indian Extradition Act, 1962.
- (2) Unlike deportation, extradition is a judicial process.

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Extradition is a process where one governmental authority formally returns an alleged criminal to another governmental authority for prosecution for a criminal charge. It is initiated when a person commits a crime in country and flees to another country.

Statement (1) is correct: In India, the **extradition of a fugitive from India to a foreign country or vice-versa is governed by the provisions of Indian Extradition Act, 1962**. To ensure extradition, extradition treaties exist between nations. India currently has extradition treaties with 48 countries.

Statement (2) is correct: Unlike **deportation, extradition is a judicial process**. E.g. in India a request to extradite an accused can be initiated only after a chargesheet is filed before the court and the court seeks the presence of the accused to face trial.

Recently a UK court ordered that fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya will be extradited to India.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/extradition/5c32067220993742be51b9fe/>

Q78. With respect to “SAMPANN”, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is a comprehensive pension management system.
- (2) It will help in the timely disbursement of pensions to lakhs of pensioners of the defence department.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement (1) is correct: Prime Minister of India recently launched SAMPANN, a Comprehensive Pension Management Scheme. It is an acronym for “System for Accounting and Management of Pension”.

Statement (2) is incorrect: The software is a Comprehensive pension management system which will help in the timely disbursement of pensions to lakhs of pensioners of the telecom department.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/sampann/5c32483b209937396eda46bc/>

Q79. Operation Greens often mentioned in the news is an initiative of which of the following Ministries?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture
- b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer: b

Explanation:

Recently Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) issued operational guidelines for Operation Greens. In the budget speech of 2018-19, a new Scheme “Operation Greens” was announced on the line of “Operation Flood”, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore. Its objective is to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops and to ensure availability of TOP crops throughout the country round the year without price volatility.

The strategy will comprise of a series of measures as decided by the Ministry which include:

Short term Price Stabilisation measures: MoFPI will provide 50% of the subsidy on the following two components: Transportation of Tomato Onion Potato (TOP) Crops from production to storage; Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for TOP Crops;

Long Term Integrated value chain development projects, Capacity Building of FPOs & their consortium, Quality production, Post-harvest processing facilities, Agri-Logistics, Marketing / Consumption Points, Creation and Management of e-platform for demand and supply management of TOP Crops. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/operation-greens/5c1c8ae4209937125ac4ca6c/>

Q80. “Ladakhi, Nandidurga and Konkan Kapila”, are related to which of the following?

- a) Various types of Saffron cultivated in India
- b) Newly registered cattle breeds
- c) Traditional water management systems
- d) Traditional sports of Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: b

Explanation:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has approved registration of record 15 new breeds of livestock and poultry this year alone under Rashtriya Gokul Mission taking the total to 40 during 2014-18. **The 15 newly registered breeds** include – two cattle breeds - **Ladakhi (J&K)** and **Konkan Kapila (Maharashtra & Goa)**; three buffalo breeds - Luit (Assam & Manipur), Bargur (Tamil Nadu), Chhattisgarhi (Chhattisgarh); one sheep breed – Panchali (Gujarat); six goat breeds – Kahmi (Gujarat), Rohilkhandi (UP) Assam Hill (Assam & Meghalaya), Bidri (Karnataka), **Nandidurga (Karnataka)**, Bhakarwali (J&K); one pig breed – Ghurrah (UP); one donkey breed – Halari (Gujarat) and one chicken breed – Uttara (Uttarakhand). These native breeds are renowned for heat tolerance and disease resistance and thriving on low input system. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/rashtriya-gokul-mission/5c320d5f20993742be51ba10/>

Q81. ‘Punganur Cow’ which was in news recently, is considered to be one of the world’s smallest breeds of cattle found in which of the following states?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Answer: b

Explanation:

Animal genetics and breeding scientists from the NTR University of Veterinary Science in Gannavaram have launched a study to assess the genetic and phenotypic status of the Punganur Cattle, so as to save the Punganur Cow from extinction. It is considered to be **one of the world's smallest breeds of cattle**. The **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** lists the breed as facing extinction. According to livestock journals, it is on the verge of extinction due to cross-breeding being conducted by farmers. **The Livestock Research Station (LRS) at Palamaner in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh is said to be the last bastion of the breed.** LRS has instituted a programme to conserve the breed. Hence, option b) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/punganur-cow/5c320fc020993742be51ba1b/>

Q82. Which of the following got Geographical Indication (GI) tag in India?

- (1) Thanjavur dolls
- (2) Tanjavur veena
- (3) Thirubuvanam silk sarees

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Point (1) is correct: The **Thanjavur doll** is a type of traditional Indian toy made in the city of Thanjavur, formerly Tanjore, of Tamil Nadu. Traditionally these toys are handmade with paper mache, wax/ Lae, plaster of paris/cement, coloring agents, clay, cardboard. Nowadays, they are also being made in plastics. They have been recognized as a Geographical Indication by the Government of India as of 2008-09.

Point (2) is correct: Revered for its resonant quality, the Saraswati Veena (Thanjavur veena) is a Carnatic musician's prized possession. Awarded the GI tag in 2013, each veena is made from the wood of a mature jackfruit tree, taking an artisan two-three months of patient chipping away to complete it. The bulb of the instrument is intricately carved with floral motifs or the image of Goddess Saraswati, and then polished for a gleaming finish.

Point (3) is correct: The Geographical Indications Registry of the Government of India has given Geological Indication (GI) Tag to the traditional **Thirubuvanam silk saris**. Thirubuvanam silk saris, which are the traditional silk saris handwoven with an elaborate design using pure zari yarn has obtained the Geographical Indication or GI tag seen as a big win for the weavers. Silk saris which are woven by the weavers in Thirubuvanam – a small town located near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur-- is quite famous for rich in quality with fine counts of silk. The speciality of Thirubuvanam silk sari is that filature silk is used for both warp and weft, resulting in high quality, uniform and high-lustre. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/thanjavur-dolls/5c3246e020993742be51baa2/>

Q83. Which of the following is/are the applications of Graphene?

- (1) Flexible electronic components
- (2) Anti-corrosion coatings
- (3) Precise sensors

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Scientists have found a potential new application of **Graphene for detecting Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**. Graphene is a form of carbon and a super-strong, ultra-light material discovered in 2004. Graphene consists of a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice, each atom bound to its neighbours by chemical bonds. The elasticity of these bonds produces resonant vibrations known as phonons. It enables flexible **electronic components, enhances solar cell capacity, and promises to revolutionise batteries.**

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive brain disorder characterised by rapid loss of motor neurons controlling skeletal muscles, leading to paralysis. ALS currently has “no known objective diagnostic test”. However, according to recent reports, graphene platform can be used not only to potentially diagnose ALS, but also to monitor its progression.

Graphene has a lot of other promising applications: **anti-corrosion coatings and paints, efficient and precise sensors, faster and efficient electronics, flexible displays, efficient solar panels, faster DNA sequencing, drug delivery, and more.** Hence, option d) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/amyotrophic-lateral-sclerosis-als/5c3215cc209937396eda4625/>

Q84. Consider the following statements:

- (1) Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- (2) It is listed as “critically endangered” on the IUCN Red List.
- (3) They generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands
- (4) It is the State bird of Rajasthan.

Above statements describes which of the following birds?

- a) Great Indian Bustard
- b) Northern goshawk
- c) Great hornbill
- d) Greater flamingo

Answer: a

Explanation:

The great Indian bustard is moving **towards extinction due to several threats**. Historically, the great Indian bustard was distributed throughout Western India, spanning 11 states, as well as parts of Pakistan. Its stronghold was once the Thar desert in the north-west and the Deccan plateau of the peninsula. Today, its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small population occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands. In the non-breeding season they frequent wide agro-grass scrub landscapes. They avoid grasses taller than themselves and dense scrub like thickets. These birds are opportunist eaters. Their diet ranges widely depending on the seasonal availability of food. **It is the State bird of Rajasthan. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.**

Rajasthan announces Project Great Indian Bustard. They plan to constitute enclosures and secure inviolate areas to ensure successful breeding of birds in the Desert National Park. Hence, option a) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/great-indian-bustard/5c321e36209937396eda463a/>

Q85. With reference to the “recent changes under Eklavya Model Residential Schools”, consider the following statements:

- (1)** They will be setup in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.
- (2)** There will be an autonomous society under the Ministry of Human Resource Development to run the EMRSs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Recently Union Cabinet has approved revamping of 'Eklaya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)'. EMRS is an excellent approach for imparting quality education to ST children. Apart from school building including hostels and staff quarters, provision for a playground, students' computer lab, teacher resource room etc. are also included in the EMRSs.

Statement (1) is correct: They will be setup in every block with more than **50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.**

Statement (2) is incorrect: There will be an Autonomous Society **under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs** similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to run the EMRSs.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/eklavya-model-residential-schools/5c322237209937396eda4643/>

Q86. With respect to "Bhasha Sangam", consider the following statements:

- (1) It is an initiative under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.
- (2) Its objective is to familiarize every child with 'simple dialogues' in all the 22 languages under Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The Department of School Education & Literacy conducted Bhasha Sangam – A Celebration of Linguistic Diversity of India – from 20 th November to 21 st December, 2018.

Statement (1) is correct: It is an **initiative under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'**. It provides an opportunity to schools and educational institution (BIETs, DIETs, CTEs/IASEs, SCERTs, SIEs, School Boards, Directorates of School Education, etc.) to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian Languages.

Statement (2) is correct: The objective is to **familiarize every child with 'simple dialogues'** in all the 22 languages under Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/bhasha-sangam/5c322273209937396eda4645/>

Q87. Which of the following states became the first in the country to have a live electronic exchange of data between the courts and the police?

- a) Telangana
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) Kerala

Answer: a

Explanation:

Telangana became the first State in the country to have a live electronic exchange of data between the courts and the police. The project was started on a pilot basis in Subedari police station of Warangal Commissionerate. Under it, FIR and charge-sheet can be transferred electronically in real time. The court can issue the receipt with the reference number online. Convergence of information between police, courts, prisons, forensics and prosecutions will eventually speed up the process of criminal justice system. The status of each case and its monitoring becomes easier for the police and judicial officers. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/e-governance/5c322733209937396c893924/>

Q88. What is "Avengard" which was recently seen in the news?

- a) An Israeli radar system
- b) India's indigenous anti-missile programme
- c) An American anti-missile system
- d) A Russian hypersonic glide vehicle

Answer: d

Explanation:

Russia successfully tested hypersonic missile system named the Avengard. The intercontinental “Avangard” system would be ready for use from 2019. The final test comes after U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to pull out of the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).

This type of aircraft uses the shock waves generated by its own flight as a lifting surface to enhance the lift-to-drag ratio to reach Mach 5. They use a special type of jet engine called a Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet). **The recent hypersonic missile developed by Russia could fly at Mach 20 or approximately 24,700 km per hour** and manoeuvre up and down, meaning that it could breach defence systems. It is supposed to combine a high-performance ballistic missile with an unmanned glider vehicle for significant improvements in maneuverability and sustained top speed. **Hence, option d) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/hypersonic/5c32430c209937396eda46ac/>

Q89. Which of the following best describes the objective of ‘e-Drishti’ an interface that was in news recently?

- a) It is an online interface providing information on trains running on the Indian Railway network.
- b) It is a network to nurture entrepreneurship for low cost products and services in order to empower women.
- c) It is an online platform for central government employees to apply for leave and access their service-related information.
- d) It is a platform through which people can view land records online.

Answer: a

Explanation:

An ‘e-Drishti’ interface has been unveiled for the Union Railway Minister, Minister of State and Board Members. This software includes an interface which provides – **summary information on punctuality of trains for the previous day**, information on current train running on the Indian Railway network and details of freight earning, freight loading and passenger earnings for the previous day & month and cumulative for the year. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/e-drishti/5c32279620993742be51ba52/>

Q90. With reference to the “Lalitgiri Archaeological Museum”, recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

(1) It is constructed to display and to protect retrieved antiquities belongs to Buddhism in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

(2) The three complexes of Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Lalitgiri are known as the “Diamond Triangle of Odisha”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

Prime Minister of India recently inaugurated the Lalitgiri Archaeological Museum.

Statement (1) is correct: Lalitgiri is one of the **earliest Buddhist settlements in Odisha** situated north of **Bhubaneswar in District Cuttack**. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has constructed the Site Museum at Lalitgiri **for display and protection of retrieved antiquities**. The museum has been organized into six galleries. Historians believe it was the site of **Pushpagiri a major Buddhist university**.

Excavations at Lalitgiri have yielded the remains of four monasteries, showing cultural continuity from the post-Mauryan period till the 13th century CE. The centre of attraction is a relic casket containing corporal remains found inside the Mahastupta. **The most important finding of the Lalitgiri are relic caskets found inside the stupa during excavations in the year 1985**. Three **Khondalite stone caskets** were found out of which two have one set of steatite, silver and gold caskets each with the relics inside in the form of charred bones.

Statement (2) is correct: The three complexes of Ratnagiri, Udayagiri and Lalitgiri are known as the **“Diamond Triangle of Odisha”**. Ratnagiri was a major centre for the Tantric form of Buddhism and in this context, has found mention even in Tibetan texts. **Ratnagiri was the location of a mahavihara, a massive Buddhist monastery**, which thrived between the 5th and 13th centuries CE. The main structure of the monastery is located on a hilltop. **Udayagiri known as Madhavapura Mahavihara**

was a prominent centre of Buddhism between the 7th and 12th centuries. This site contains a small brick stupa that houses a colossal Buddha in the celestial bhumisparsha position. The most outstanding feature of Udayagiri is its extraordinary stone gate found next to a stone well.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/lalitgiri-archaeological-museum/5c322cdf209937396eda4660/>

Q91. Consider the following statements with reference to the Paika Rebellion:

- (1) It was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in West Bengal in 1817.
- (2) The rebellion against the British rule was under the leadership of Baxi Jagabandhu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

PM releases commemorative stamp and coin on Paika Rebellion. On the Paika Rebellion, the Prime Minister announced the setting up of the Bakshi Deenbandhu Chair at the prestigious Utkal University.

Statement (1) is incorrect: Paika Rebellion was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha in 1817.

Statement (2) is correct: The rebellion against the British rule was under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara.

Key events of rebellion

In March 1817, The Paiks rose in rebellion under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu and projected Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity. The rebellion quickly spread across most of Odisha before being ruthlessly put down by the company's forces. By May 1817, the British managed to re-establish their authority over the entire province, but it was a long while before the tranquillity finally returned to it.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/paika-rebellion/5c322c89209937396eda465e/>

Q92. With respect to “Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)”, consider the following statements:

- (1) It is a sub-scheme under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).
- (2) Its objective is to help rural households including women to set-up enterprises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Union Minister of State for Rural Development informed Lok Sabha about the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).

Statement (1) is incorrect: SVEP is a **sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

Statement (2) is correct: Its objective is to **help rural households including women to set-up enterprises**. Skill building support is provided to all the entrepreneurs supported under SVEP through Community Resource Persons for Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP). The entrepreneurs have the freedom to identify the sectors in which they want to start businesses based on assessment of market potential.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/start-up-village-entrepreneurship-programme-svep/5c322de820993742be51ba5d/>

Q93. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA):

- (1) It is an autonomous body under the Union Health Ministry.
- (2) Its mandate is to conduct National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test – Post Graduate (NEETPG) and NEET-SS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: National Testing Agency (NTA) is an autonomous and self-sustained organization registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Statement (2) is incorrect: It's mandate is to conduct "all entrance examinations for higher educational institutions" which were being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

National Board of Examinations (NBE) is an autonomous body under the Union Health Ministry. Its mandate is to conduct National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test – Post Graduate (NEETPG) and NEET-SS which are the only examinations for admission to Broad and Super Specialty Medical courses respectively and also to conduct the licensing examination for Indian Citizens who have obtained their MBBS equivalent outside India.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/national-testing-agency-nta/5c32303b209937396eda4673/>

Q94. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

	Tradition	States
1.	Pava kathakali	Kerala
2.	Tamasha	Maharashtra
3.	Villu Paattu	Telangana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Pair (1) is correctly matched: Pavakathakali (glove puppet kathakali) is a **traditional glove puppet theatre from Kerala**. It was probably born in the 18th century. The theme is local puppeteers to dress their puppets in **kathakali costumes** and adopt the themes of the attakatha, the stage interpretations of this drama. The musical instruments – the same as used for kathakali – are comprised of a chenda, chengila, illetalam and shankh and accompany one or two singers. The minimum number of puppeteers to perform a show is six. **The plays are themed around narrations of Ramayana and Mahabharata.**

Pair (2) is correctly matched: **Tamasha is one of the most important form of folk theater of Maharashtra.** This dance form developed in 16th century. The love songs (Lavanis) are the heart of Tamasha and are very popular. It has two main branches – Dholki Bhaari and Sangeet Bhaari.

Pair (3) is not correctly matched: **Villu Paattu is an art-form prevalent in Kerala and Thovalai in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.** It is popular among Nadar and Chettiar castes of erstwhile Travancore kingdom. It is an ancient form of musical story-telling in India where narration is interspersed with music. The **villu (bow)**, the age-old weapon of warriors, is used as a primary musical instrument. **Udukku**, a small drum with a slender middle portion is used as supplementary instruments in performances. The performers narrate stories ranging from mythological to social. The local government sometime utilise this as a vehicle for social messages and propaganda. **Hence, option a) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/pava-kathakali/5c323708209937396eda4679/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/villupaattu/5c1c846c20993712583edd8e/>

Q95. With reference to the “Pokkali rice”, consider the following statements:

(1) It is a rice variety cultivated in the water-logged coastal regions in West Bengal.

(2) It is organically-grown and can also draw nutrients from the prawn's excrement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement (1) is incorrect: Pokkali is a rice variety cultivated in the water-logged coastal regions, in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts of Kerala. It has unique saline tolerant property. Its resistance to salinity is remarkable.

Statement (2) is correct: It is organically-grown. The rice crop doesn't require other fertilizer or manure as the tidal flows make the fields highly fertile and it **draw nutrients from the prawns' excrement** and other remnants. The rice is cultivated from June to early November when the salinity level of the water in the fields is low. From mid-November to mid-April, when the salinity is high, prawn farming takes over. The brand Pokkali has received a GI tag from the Geographical Indications Registry Office, Chennai.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/pokkali-rice/5c323794209937396eda467d/>

Q96. Anak Krakatoa volcano, which was recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following countries?

a) Japan

b) Indonesia

c) Philippines

d) USA

Answer: b

Explanation:

Krakatoa, or Krakatau, is a volcanic island situated in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra in the Indonesian province of Lampung. Anak Krakatau, translated as "Child of Krakatoa" is an island located in the Sunda Strait between the two islands of Java and Sumatra. It was formed after its 'parent volcano' Krakatoa erupted in 1927, with Anak Krakatoa breaking water in 1930. The Sunda Strait connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean. **Hence, option b) is the correct answer.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/anak-krakatoa-volcano/5c323960209937396eda4685/>

Q97. Consider the following statements:

- (1) He presided the session of Indian National Congress four times in 1909, 1918, 1932 and 1933.
- (2) He started the Congress Nationalist Party in protest against the Communal Award of 1932.
- (3) He started the 'Leader' an English daily in 1909 and the 'Maryada' a Hindi monthly in 1910.
- (4) He founded Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Varanasi in 1916.

Above statements are about which of the following Personalities?

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Govind Ballabh Pant
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- d) Madan Mohan Malaviya

Answer: d

Explanation:

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was an Indian educationist and a Freedom Fighter. He was conferred the title of '**Mahamana**' by **Mahatma Gandhi**. He was elected as the **president of Indian National Congress four times in 1909, 1918, 1932 and 1933**, but owing to his arrest by the Government of India, he could not preside over the 1932 and 1933 sessions which had been banned. In protest against the Communal Award of 1932 which sought to provide separate electorates for minorities, **Malaviya along with Madhav Shrihari Aney left the Congress and started the Congress Nationalist Party.**

He founded Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Varanasi in 1916, which was created under the B.H.U. Act, 1915. He started the 'Abhyudaya' as a Hindi weekly in 1907 and made it a daily in 1915. He also started the 'Maryada' a Hindi monthly in 1910. He started the 'Leader' an English daily in 1909. He was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the 'Hindustan Times' from 1924 to 1946. He was posthumously conferred with Bharat Ratna in 2014. Mahamana Express, a train named after Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016. The Train runs between Delhi and Varanasi. Hence, option d) is the correct answer.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/pandit-madan-mohan-malaviya/5c323ea2209937396eda469b/>

Q98. Consider the following fauna of India:

- (1) Olive Ridley Sea Turtle
- (2) Himalayan Griffon Vultures
- (3) Indian Leopard

Which of the above is/are listed as Endangered on IUCN Red List of Threatened species?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above

Answer: d

Explanation:

Point (1) is incorrect: Olive Ridley Sea Turtle are the **smallest of all sea turtles found in the world**. They are **carnivores**, and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs, molluscs and a variety of fish and their eggs. **They inhabit warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans**. These turtles spend their entire lives in the ocean, and migrate thousands of kilometres between feeding and mating grounds in the course of a year. These turtles, along with their cousin the Kemp's ridley turtle, are best known for their unique mass nesting called **Arribada**. The coast of Orissa in India is the largest mass nesting site for the Olive-ridley, followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica. In spite of the Olive Ridley being the most abundant sea turtle, their

numbers have been declining over the past few years, and the **species is recognized as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red list.**

Point (2) is incorrect: Himalayan Griffon Vultures is an **Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae.** It is one of the two largest Old World vultures and true raptors. This species is found along the **Himalayas and the adjoining Tibetan Plateau.** It listed as **Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.** Himalayan vultures are also susceptible to toxicity induced by **diclofenac**, a drug whose residues in domestic animal carcasses. But their population have however not shown signs of rapid decline as witnessed in populations of other Gyps vultures across Asia.

Point (3) is incorrect: The Indian leopard is one of the big cats occurring on the Indian subcontinent, apart from the Asiatic lion, Bengal tiger, snow leopard and clouded leopard. The leopard is the **smallest of the big cats**, and is known for its black-spotted coat. A **nocturnal animal, the leopard hunts by night.** An extremely agile creature, it spends most of its resting time on top of trees, using land only to move locations, but rarely to rest or nap. **Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards**, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots. In India, the leopard is **found in all forest types**, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, **the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.** It is **listed on a par with Tigers under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972** and listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.**

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/himalayan-griffon-vultures/5c3248c1209937396c89397b/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/indian-leopard/5c324025209937396eda46a1/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/olive-ridley/5c324382209937396eda46af/>

Q99. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

	Region often mentioned in news	Country
(1)	Elum Valley	Pakistan
(2)	Hodeidah	Yemen
(3)	Lumthari village	Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Pair (1) is correctly matched: Pakistan government is planning to promote religious tourism in Elum Valley revered by both Hindus and Buddhists. **It is located between the Swat and Buner districts in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.** Elum Valley carries a historical significance to both the Hindus and the Buddhists, - to Hindu belief, Lord Ram spent time meditating there during his 14 years of exile and Buddhists believe it to be the site where a previous incarnation of Lord Buddha gave up his life.

Pair (2) is correctly matched: Hodeidah, is the fourth-largest city in Yemen and its principal port on the Red Sea. **Hodeidah is the entry point for most of Yemen's humanitarian aid and commercial imports.** Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are leading a military coalition that is backing Hadi government forces fighting the Houthis. The war that killed tens of thousands and thrust Yemen to the verge of famine.

Pair (3) is not correctly matched: Lumthari village is located in Saipung Tehsil of Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya, India. The Meghalaya mining accident happened in December 2018, when miners were trapped in a mine in Lumthari village. The tunnel of the mines was flooded with water from the nearby Lytein river, thus cutting off the access.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/lumthari-village/5c32417920993742be51ba8c/>

<http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/elum-valley/5c31f1ad209937396c8938ad/>

Q100. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of which of the following?

- a) Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee
- b) Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture
- c) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

d) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

Answer: c

Explanation:

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops **on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. Hence, option c) is the correct answer.

MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government. **The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.** In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.

Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for **22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane**. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

Source: <http://vajiramias.com/current-affairs/copra/5c324597209937396eda46b3/>

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