

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. Lonar Lake is a notified National Geo-Heritage Monument.
2. It is situated inside the Deccan Plateau and is acidic in nature.

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:

- Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, is a saline and alkaline lake located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is situated inside the Deccan Plateau—a massive plain of volcanic basalt rock created by eruptions.
- It is an oval shaped and has a mean diameter of 1.2 km. It is a popular tourist hub.
- It is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

2. Consider the following pairs:

National Park	State
1. Dibru-Saikhowa	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Betla National Park	Jharkhand
3. Galathea National Park	Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

National Park

State

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dibru-Saikhowa | Assam |
| 2. Betla National Park | Jharkhand |
| 3. Galathea National Park | Andaman and Nicobar Islands |

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

3. The term 'BlackRock' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- a. Enhanced version of Xerxes malware
- b. Conservation of minerals
- c. Security of maritime boundary
- d. Anti-Piracy operation in Indian Ocean

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **BlackRock** is a banking **Trojan** and said to be an enhanced version of existing Xerxes malware which itself is a variant of the **LokiBot Android** trojan. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
 - **A trojan is any type of malicious program disguised** as a legitimate one. Often, they are designed to steal sensitive information (login credentials, account numbers, financial information, credit card information, and the like) from users.

4. With reference to 'National Green Tribunal; Consider the following statements:

1. National Green Tribunal is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within a year months of filing the same.
2. New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting of the National green tribunal.

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:

- National Green Tribunal is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within **6 months** of filing the same. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NGT has five places of sittings, **New Delhi** is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

5. Consider the following pairs:

Atomic Power Station	State
1. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	Andhra Pradesh
2. Tarapur Atomic Power Station	Gujarat
3. Kudankulam Nuclear Power	Tamil Nadu

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Atomic Power Station	State
1. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	Gujarat
2. Tarapur Atomic Power Station	Maharashtra
3. Kudankulam Nuclear Power	Tamil Nadu

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the 2nd voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report?

1. Voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report is presented by Niti Ayog.
2. Around 271 million people were lifted out of multidimensional poverty in the last decade.
3. The poverty estimates presented were drawn from the global Multidimensional Poverty Index -2019 (MPI).

Select the correct answer using the code given below-

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) report** has been presented by the **Niti Ayog** at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the report, at least 271 million people were lifted out of multi-dimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2016-17. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The poverty estimates presented were drawn from the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index -2019 (MPI-2019). **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

7. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
2. It redraws Lok Sabha, state assembly constituencies and urban local body constituencies.
3. It works on the principle of One Vote One Value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is usually composed of the retired Supreme Court judge, Chief Election Commissioner and respective states' Election Commissioners.
- **Article 82 and Article 170** of the Indian constitution provides that the **Parliamentary constituencies and state legislative assemblies** respectively to be redrawn by a Delimitation commission, established after every Census.
 - However, there is **no such commission for urban local bodies.** **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It redraws the boundaries and determines the number of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal. Thereby, working on the principle of One Vote One Value. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

8. With reference to 'NISHTHA programme', consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched to improve learning outcomes at the higher secondary level in the country.
2. It is a capacity building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training.

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:

- Initially, the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme was launched in 2019 through face-to-face mode to improve learning outcomes at the **elementary level** in the country. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Aim:**
 - NISHTHA is a **capacity building programme** for improving the quality of school education **through integrated teacher training.** **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.

9. 'Bathynomus raksasa', recently seen in the news, is a
- Dance form performed by the Kharia tribe of Jharkhand.
 - Scientific name of giant Squirrel found in Sundarbans.
 - Super giant isopod species found in the Indian Ocean.
 - Variety of super giant trees of western Ghats.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Recently, scientists have reported the discovery of the **first super giant isopod species in the eastern Indian Ocean named 'Bathynomus raksasa'**. Hence, Option C is correct.

10. Consider the following statements:

- The clones of Casuarina plant genus are suitable for salt-affected soils.
- The Casuarina have a role in nitrogen fixation in symbiotic association with bacteria Frankia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry for the year 2019 has been awarded to Kannan C S Warriar, a scientist at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB).
 - The award has been awarded to Kannan C S Warriar for releasing three **salt-tolerant productive clones of Casuarina** that are suitable for **salt-affected soils**, for the first time in the country.
 - India has 6.73 million hectares of salt affected land and is also the largest producer of Casuarina in the world which makes the production of these clones a significant achievement. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Casuarina have a **role in nitrogen fixation in symbiotic association** with bacteria Frankia. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**

11. With reference to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), consider the following statements:

- The fund is placed in the contingency fund of the Government of India.
- Expenditures from it are not required to be approved by the 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 : (b)

Explanation:

- **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** is placed in the “**Public Account**” of Government of India under “reserve funds not bearing interest”. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Expenditures from it are not required to be approved by the Parliament. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

12. With reference to Sacred groves, consider the following statements:
1. These are protected forests having significant religious connotation for the protecting community.
 2. It is legally protected under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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:

- Sacred groves are protected forests which usually have a significant religious connotation for the protecting community. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Sacred groves have been legally protected under ‘community reserves’ in the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

13. With reference to ‘PASSEX’, consider the following statements:
1. It is an annual naval exercise conducted near Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 2. It is a trilateral exercise involving the United States, Japan and 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: (d)

Explanation:

- Indian Naval ships conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with **the U.S. Navy's USS Nimitz** carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - A passage exercise is **normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises**, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.
Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- Recently, the Indian Navy had also conducted similar PASSEXs with the Japanese Navy and the French Navy. **It is not a trilateral exercise.**
Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

14. Regarding 'Consumer Protection Act-2019', consider the following statements:

1. It envisages a Central Consumer Protection Authority which aims to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
2. The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are advisory in nature.

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 Consumer Protection Act, 2019 establishes the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** whose primary objective will be to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Now, the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are mandatory and are not advisories. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

15. Regarding 'Postal Ballots System' in India, consider the following statements:

1. Ballot papers are distributed electronically to electors and are returned to the election officers via post.
2. As of now only the Service voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot.

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:

- In the Postal Ballots System, ballot papers are distributed electronically to electors and are returned to the election officers via post. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Currently, the following voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot:
 - **Service voters** (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad).
 - **Voters on election duty.**
 - **Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD).**
 - **Voters under preventive detention.**
- The exception to the above-mentioned category of voters is provided under Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

16. Consider the following about Mega Food Parks:

1. Mega Food Park Scheme was launched in 2008-09 under the purview of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. The government has operationalized the first Mega Food Park (MFP) of Mizoram known as Zoram Mega Food Park.
3. It is the only Food Park in North East India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer-(b)

Explanation:

- Mega Food Park Scheme was launched in: 2008-09 under the purview of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Recently, the government has operationalized the first Mega Food Park (MFP) of Mizoram i.e. Zoram Mega Food Park. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Assam already has a MFP in its Nalbari district- North East Mega Food Park. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

17. Consider the following statements about Sri Lanka:

1. Mahayana Buddhism is the majority belief system of most of the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka.
2. According to locals, it was Ravana who used a flying machine called “Dandu monara” to fly not only within the country, but also in the South East Asia region.

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:

- Theravada Buddhism, is the majority belief system of most of the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**
- According to the locals and the civil aviation authority, it was Ravana who used a flying machine called “Dandu monara” to fly not only within the country, but also in the South East Asia region. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

18. Consider the following about Manodarpan Initiative:

1. It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to poor, labour class and already depressed mental patients for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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-

- It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Recently, the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) has launched the 'Manodarpan' initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

19. Consider the following statements about Indian Bullfrog:

1. It is native to the Indian subcontinent and is the largest frog in India.
2. Its IUCN status is endangered.
3. It is one of the invasive species on the islands of Lakshadweep.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 only

d. All of the above

Answer-(c)

Explanation:

.It is native to the Indian subcontinent (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan) and is the largest frog in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- IUCN Red List: Least Concern. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is one of the invasive species on the islands of Andaman and Nicobar. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

20. Recently RBI has signed a currency swap agreement with which country?

- Iran
- Myanmar
- Sri Lanka
- Maldives

Answer(c)

Explanation:

- Recently, India and Sri Lanka had a virtual meeting in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It was attended by the officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, representatives of the Sri Lankan government and the Export-Import (Exim) Bank. **Hence (c) is correct**

MAINS QUESTIONS

1. What are malwares? Discuss its impact on the Banking system in India.
2. The recent Pandemic of COVID-19 illustrated that Governance is much more than the work of Government. Comment.

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