

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. With reference to ‘Olive Ridley Turtles’, consider the following statements:
1. Olive ridley turtles are listed in Appendix I of CITES.
 2. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific and Indian oceans only.

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:

Olive Ridley Turtles

- The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- Habitat: They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **CITES: Appendix I. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Agappe Chitra Magna is a magnetic nanoparticle-based Deoxyribonucleic acid extraction kit.
2. It isolates mitochondria from the patient sample using magnetic nanoparticles.
3. It has been developed by the National Virology Institute.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Agappe Chitra Magna is a magnetic nanoparticle-based RiboNucleic Acid (RNA) extraction kit. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It isolates RNA from the patient sample using magnetic nanoparticles. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) in collaboration with Agappe Diagnostics Ltd.

has commercially launched the Agappe Chitra Magna Kit for detection of Covid-19. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

3. New START Treaty often seen in news is related to
- reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms between the United States of America and Russia.
 - doctrine for establishment of peace between India and Pakistan.
 - building Confidence Building Measures between India- China due to recent border skirmishes.
 - measures for tackling drug menace in the Golden Crescent region of South Asia.

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- The new **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)** is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

4. With reference to 'Open Skies Treaty', consider the following statements:
- India and the USA are not members of this treaty.
 - It provides the signatory countries access to military bases for civil purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

Open Skies Treaty

- It was signed in 1992 and came into effect in 2002.
- It is an agreement that allows its 34 signatory countries to monitor arm development by conducting surveillance flights (unarmed) over each other's territories. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Therefore, the treaty established an aerial surveillance system for its participants.
- India is not a member of this treaty. Both US and Russia are signatories of the treaty. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

5. With reference to 'Golden Crescent region', consider the following statements:

1. This region of the Middle East is a principal global site for opium production and distribution.
 2. It comprises Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.
- 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:

Golden Crescent

- This region of **South Asia** is a principal global site for opium production and distribution. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It comprises **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
6. With reference to the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), consider the following statements:
1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
 2. It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.

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

- The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India was set up in **2000** as an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

7. Consider the following statements regarding the coalitions of different nations to probe covid-19 origin:

1. The resolution to identify the zoonotic source of the coronavirus was proposed at the World Health Assembly.
2. It is supported by all the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.
3. From the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations, only Bangladesh and Bhutan have signed up.

Which of the statements mentioned above is/are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Recently, 62 countries have proposed a resolution at the World Health Assembly to identify the zoonotic source of the coronavirus and demanded a comprehensive evaluation of the World Health Organisation response to the Covid crisis. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
 - The resolution is supported by only three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council i.e. UK, Russia and France. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - From the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations, only India, Bangladesh and Bhutan have signed up. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
8. With reference to ‘Tropical Cyclones’, consider the following statements:
1. Saffir-Simpson scale rates the severity of tropical cyclones.
 2. Tropical cyclones are called typhoons in the North Atlantic region.
 3. They rotate clockwise in the Northern hemisphere.
- 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: (a)

Explanation

- Saffir-Simpson scale provides 1-5 rating based on the tropical cyclones’s intensity. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Tropical cyclones are called typhoons in the North Pacific region. In the North Atlantic Region, they are called ‘hurricanes’. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- They rotate counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere because of the coriolis effect. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

9. Consider the following statements:

1. A syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.
2. A disease called epidemic when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.
3. Epidemics are more severe than pandemic due to an unlimited area of spread.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- A syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- An epidemic is a large outbreak, one that spreads among a population or region. A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Epidemics are less severe than pandemic due to a limited area of spread. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

10. Which of the following border lines is/are associated with India and China?

1. Johnson's line
2. McDonald Line
3. Line of Control (LoC)
4. Line of Actual Control (LAC)
5. Radcliffe line

Select the correct option using the code given below.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2, 4 and 5 only
- c. 1, 2 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Johnson's line, McDonald line and Line of Actual Control (LAC) are associated with the India-China border.
- Line of Control (LoC) and Radcliffe line are associated with the India-Pakistan border. **Hence, Option C is correct.**

11. Which of the following locust species are found in India?

1. Desert Locust
2. Migratory Locust
3. Red Locust
4. Tree Locust

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- A locust is a large, **mainly tropical grasshopper** with strong powers of flight.
- **Four species of locust are found in India namely**
 - Desert Locust
 - Migratory Locust
 - Bombay Locust
 - Tree Locust

Hence, Option (c) is correct.

12. Regarding Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- a. It was launched by the Ministry of Finance to offer a guaranteed payout of pension to senior citizens every month.
- b. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme.
- c. The scheme is exempted from Goods & Services Tax (GST).
- d. Aadhar has been made optional as per new guidelines to avail the benefit of the scheme.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Aadhar has been made **mandatory** to avail the benefit of the scheme. **Hence, Option (d) is not correct.** All other statements are correct.

13. Consider the following statements about Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities:

1. The Star Rating Protocol is an initiative of the Quality Council of India to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status.
2. The Star Rating is supported by self-assessment and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Star Rating Protocol was launched by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MOHUA) in 2018** to institutionalize a mechanism for cities **to achieve Garbage Free status**, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of sustainable cleanliness. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Star Rating is supported by **self-assessment and self-verification** for achieving a certain star rating. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

14. Consider the following statements about Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme on All India basis with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
2. It aims to increase access to finance and revenue targets for the micro food processing enterprises.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises** is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** on All India basis with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore.
 - The expenditure will be shared by the Centre and the States in a ratio of **60:40**. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It intends to increase **access to finance and revenue targets for the micro food processing enterprises**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. Which of the following sites in India are recognised as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)?

1. Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System
2. Dry Agriculture System
3. Koraput Traditional Agriculture
4. Pampore Saffron Heritage

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the **world's agricultural heritage systems**.
- **Three recognised GIAHS sites in India:**
 - Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala.
 - Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha.
 - Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

15. Consider the following statements about Mount Harriet National Park:

1. It is located in the north Andaman Island.
2. Mount Harriet is the highest peak in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.
3. The park is covered with evergreen forest pockets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer(c)

Explanation:

- Mount Harriet is located in the south Andaman Is. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Mount Harriet is the third-highest peak in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago next to Saddle Peak in North Andaman and Mount Thuillier in Great Nicobar.
- The park is covered with evergreen forest pockets. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

- It is rich in flora and faunal species like Andaman wild pigs, saltwater crocodiles, butterflies and palm trees. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

17. Consider the following statements about Baltic Countries:

1. The Baltic states are bounded on the west and north by the Baltic Sea, on the east by Russia, on the southeast by Belarus and on the southwest by Poland and an exclave of Russia.
2. Estonia and Latvia are members of the European Union whereas Lithuania is not a member.
3. India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots.
4. Recently, the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania started a travel bubble to help put their economies back on track after Covid-19 lockdowns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- The Baltic states are bounded on the west and north by the Baltic Sea, which gives the region its name, on the east by Russia, on the southeast by Belarus and on the southwest by Poland and an exclave of Russia. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- All three of them are members of the European Union (EU). **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots. The cutting edge technology and innovation ecosystems of the Baltic countries complement India's huge market and appetite for these technologies. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Recently, the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania started a travel bubble to help put their economies back on track after Covid-19 lockdowns. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

18. Hatiya islands recently seen in news are located in:

- a. Indonesia
- b. Malaysia
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Japan

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- The supercyclone 'Amphan' is likely to make landfall between the Sagar islands of West Bengal and the Hatiya islands of Bangladesh.

19. Consider the following statements about International Energy Agency:

1. It was established in 1974, in the wake of the oil crisis of 1973
2. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium
3. It releases the World Energy Outlook report.
4. India became the 30th member of IEA in 2018.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (b)

Explanation:

- It was established in 1974, in the wake of the oil crisis of 1973 after the OPEC cartel had shocked the world with a steep increase in oil prices. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- It is headquartered in Paris, France. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It releases the World Energy Outlook report, annually. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Mexico became the 30th member of IEA in 2018. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**

20. Consider the following about Quantum Entanglement:

1. It is the physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated and they interact in such a way that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others.
2. In this quantum mechanical phenomenon, the quantum states of two or more objects have to be described with reference to each other, even though the individual objects may be spatially separated.

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:

- It is the physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated and they interact in such a way that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In this quantum mechanical phenomenon, the quantum states of two or more objects have to be described with reference to each other, even though the individual objects may be spatially separated. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Peace between India and China presents an opportunity to realise our dream of an Asian century. Comment
2. Mahatma Gandhi often said “The future of India lies in its villages”. The recent phenomenon of reverse-migration warned us that without developing villages we can't think of a great India. Discuss.

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