

2020



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. With reference to ‘Dugong dugon’, consider the following statements:
1. Dugong dugon is listed as nearly extinct on the IUCN Red List.
 2. It is found in Tamil Nadu, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Gulf of Kutch.

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:

- Dugong (Dugong dugon) is also called ‘**Sea Cow**’.
- It is the only existing species of herbivorous mammal that lives exclusively in the sea including in India.
- They are listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- They are protected in India **under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Habitat:** Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat.

2. With reference to ‘Neutrinos’, consider the following statements:
1. Neutrinos are positively charged particles which get influenced by magnetic fields.
 2. Neutrinos are produced during natural radioactive decays.

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:

- Neutrinos are **electrically neutral, undisturbed** by even the strongest magnetic field, and **rarely interact with matter**. The direction from which they arrive points directly back to their original source. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Neutrinos are produced during natural radioactive decays and all sorts of nuclear reactions in nuclear power reactors, particle accelerators or nuclear bombs. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANITA) is a radio telescope instrument to detect protons.

2. It is the first observatory of the European Space Agency to study neutrinos.

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:

- **Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANITA)** is a radio telescope instrument to detect **ultra-high energy cosmic-ray neutrinos** from a scientific balloon flying over the continent of Antarctica. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is the **first NASA observatory for neutrinos** of any kind. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

4. Which of the following represents the drainage basin of the Nile river?

1. Tanzania
2. Burundi
3. Rwanda
4. Kenya
5. Uganda

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 5 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Nile is the **longest river in the world** and is called the **father of African rivers**.
- It **rises south of the Equator** and **flows northward** through **northeastern Africa** to **drain into the Mediterranean Sea**.
 - The Nile River forms an **arcuate delta** as it empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
 - The Nile is formed by **three principal streams**: the **Blue Nile**, the **Atbara**, and the **White Nile**.
- **Drainage**: Parts of **Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda**, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, **Kenya, Uganda**, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Sudan, and the cultivated part of Egypt. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

5. With reference to 'National Human Rights Commission', consider the following statements:
1. The President appoints the Chairman and members of NHRC on recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister.
 2. The chairman and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

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:

- NHRC is a multi-member body which consists of a Chairman and seven other members. Out of the seven members, three are ex-officio members.
 - The President appoints the Chairman and members of NHRC on recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - According to the amendment of 2019, the chairman and members hold office for a term of **three years or until they attain the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Before this amendment**, the chairman and members hold office for a term of **five years or until they attain the age of 70 years**.
 - The President can remove the chairman or any member from the office under some circumstances.
 - They can be removed only on the charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity, if proved by an inquiry conducted by a Supreme Court Judge.
 - NHRC of India is an **independent statutory body** established on 12 October, 1993 as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006.
6. Consider the following statements regarding the J&K grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020:
1. Under the amended rules, eligible non-locals can also apply for the certificate.
 2. It would allow West Pakistan refugees, safai karamcharis and children of women who married non-locals to apply for jobs.
 3. It sets a fast track process in motion to issue the certificates within a stipulated time of 10 days.

Which of the above mentioned statements is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Recently, by the introduction of J&K grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020, domicile certificates have now been made a basic eligibility condition for appointment to any post under the Union Territory of J&K. Under this, eligible non-locals can also apply for the certificate. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It would allow West Pakistan refugees, safai karamcharis and children of women who married non-locals to apply for jobs. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It sets a fast track process in motion to issue the certificates within a stipulated time of 15 days. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

7. With reference to the Swarm Constellation Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It consists of three satellites designed to identify and precisely measure the different magnetic signals that makeup Earth's magnetic field.
2. It is a collaborative effort of the USA, Canada, Russia and Japan.

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: (b)

Explanation

- Swarm Constellation Mission consists of three satellites designed to identify and precisely measure the different magnetic signals that makeup Earth's magnetic field. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is European Space Agency's first constellation of satellites for Earth observation. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

8. With reference to the 'Banks Board Bureau', consider the following statements:

1. It is a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. It recommends personnels for the Public Sector Banks only.
3. It was formed on the recommendations of the K.C. Chakrabarty Committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Banks Board Bureau is a public authority as defined in the Right to Information Act, 2005. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Apart from recommending personnel for the PSBs, the Bureau has also been assigned with the task of recommending personnel for appointment as directors in government-owned insurance companies. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has its genesis in the recommendations of 'The Committee to Review Governance of Boards of Banks in India, May 2014 (Chairman - P. J. Nayak)'. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

9. Galwan Valley, sometimes seen in the news, is located in:

- a. Sikkim
- b. Uttarakhand
- c. Ladakh
- d. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Galwan Valley region is located in Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. It is a part of the Aksai Chin area. **Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.**

10. With reference to the 'Eco-Label', consider the following statements:

1. It indicates a product that has fewer impacts on the environment as compared to competitively similar products.
2. EcoMark is India's eco-label scheme,

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- An eco-label identifies products or services proven environmentally preferable overall, within a specific product or service category. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Government of India in 1991 launched its first eco-label scheme, known as EcoMark. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

11. Consider the following statements regarding Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

1. It is a statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance to strengthen financial stability.
2. It is headed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is a **non-statutory** apex council under the **Ministry of Finance** constituted by the Executive Order in 2010. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is chaired by the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of all Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA & IRDA), Finance Secretary, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Chief Economic Adviser. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

12. South Atlantic Anomaly signifies weakening of the Earth's magnetic field between which of the following countries?

- a. South America and Africa
- b. North America and South America
- c. Africa and North America
- d. Canada and Europe

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The South Atlantic Anomaly signifies **weakening of the Earth's magnetic field** between **Africa and South America**. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

13. With reference to Tianwen-1, consider the following statements:

1. It is China's first Mars mission to place a ground-penetrating radar on the Martian surface.
2. It has an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover system.
3. With the success of this mission, China will be the second country to achieve a Mars landing after the United States of America.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Tianwen-1 is China's first Mars Mission to be launched in July, 2020.
- The mission will be the first to place a ground-penetrating radar on the Martian surface, which will be able to study local geology, as well as rock, ice, and dirt distribution. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an all-in-one orbiter, lander and rover system. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The success of the mission will make China the third country to achieve a Mars landing after the USSR (the former Eurasian empire) and the United States of America. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

14. Which of the following states recently launched the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme to promote crop diversification?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Punjab
- c. Haryana
- d. Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Haryana government had recently launched 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme, aimed at **crop diversification** to move away from water-guzzling paddy.
- Under the scheme, farmers sowing alternative crops other than paddy during the ensuing kharif season will get an incentive of ₹7,000 per acre.
- **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

15. Which of the following statements about the Border Roads Organisation is/are correct?

1. It was established for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.
2. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Border Roads Organisation** was conceived and **raised in 1960** by **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It works under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.** **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

16. Consider the following statements about Kangra Tea:

1. Kangra tea has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
2. It is loaded with antioxidants like catechins and polyphenols, and said to offer various health benefits
3. It is also used in making sentizers, soap, vinegar, wine etc

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:(d)

Explanation:

- Kangra tea has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is loaded with antioxidants like catechins and polyphenols, and said to offer these health benefits: promotes weight loss, builds immunity, improves oral health and mental alertness, etc. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also used in making sentizers, soap, vinegar, wine etc. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

17. Consider the following statements about ‘Katkari Tribe’:

1. Katkaris are located primarily in Andhra Pradesh as well as in some places of Odisha
2. Katkari is one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
3. The name Katkari is derived from a fishing based activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Katkaris are located primarily in Raigad and in parts of Palghar, Ratnagiri and Thane districts of Maharashtra as well as in some places of Gujarat. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.**

- Katkari is one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The name Katkari is derived from a forest-based activity – the making and bartering or sale of Catechu from the Khair tree (*Acacia Katechu*).
Hence statement 3 is not correct.

18. Puntius Sanctus is a newly discovered species of:

- Bat
- Fish
- Snake
- Gecko

Answer:(b)

Explanation: Recently, Puntius Sanctus, a new freshwater fish, has been found in Velankanni, Tamil Nadu. It has been found in a small waterbody

19. Consider the following statements about Purandara Dasa:

1. Purandara Dasa belonged to the Shaivite tradition during the Rashtrakuta rule.
2. He is considered the father of Carnatic Music.
3. He composed songs in Telugu and Sanskrit with the pen name Purandara Vittala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2 only
- All of the above

Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- Purandara Dasa belonged to the Vaishnava tradition during the Vijayanagar rule.**Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna, a poet and a musician. He is considered the father of Carnatic Music. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- He composed songs in Kannada and Sanskrit with the pen name Purandara Vithala. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

20. Consider the following about 'Charu Mussel':

1. Charu mussel (*Mytella strigata*), is an invasive species and spreading quickly in the backwaters of Kerala.
2. It is native to the southern and eastern American coast.
3. They cannot survive in saline water and temperature beyond 25 degree celcius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only

- c. 1 only
- d. All of the above

Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*), is an invasive species and is spreading quickly in the backwaters of Kerala. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Charru mussel is native to the South and Central American coast. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- They can survive in a range of salinity and temperature but cannot survive beyond 36 degree Celsius. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

MAINS QUESTIONS:

1. Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in case of Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Problems in Indian Banks range from institutional, structural, managerial and government interference. Bank capitalisation alone can't be the solution. Discuss.

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