

2020



drishti

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

22nd June - 27th June



BusinessLine



1. Consider the following statements:

1. Fishing Cats are listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. Fishing cats are mainly found in the Eastern Ghats.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer - (a)

Explanation:

- In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the **Western Ghats. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.** Despite multiple threats, the Fishing Cat was recently downlisted to “Vulnerable” from “Endangered” in the IUCN Red List species assessment.
 - **CITES: Appendix II**
 - **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

2. With reference to ‘Seabed 2030 Project’, consider the following statements:

1. Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans.
2. It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer- (c)

Explanation:

- Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the **Nippon Foundation of Japan** and the **General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It was launched at the **United Nations Ocean Conference** in June 2017 and is aligned with the UN's **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14** to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

- The project aims to bring together all available **bathymetric data** to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - Bathymetry is the measurement of the shape and depth of the ocean floor.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. India represents non-permanent seat from Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term in UNSC.
2. Non-permanent members of UNSC are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
3. India's sixth term in the UNSC will begin from January 2021.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

Elections for Non-Permanent Members of the UNSC

- **India's Election:**

- India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2019, the candidature of India was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia-Pacific grouping, which also included China and Pakistan.
- This would be India's **eighth term** in the UNSC which will begin from January 2021. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term to UNSC. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

4. The theme of International Yoga Day for the year 2020 is?

- a. Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home
- b. Climate Action
- c. Yoga for Peace
- d. Yoga for Healing

Answer - (a)

Explanation:

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) is observed on 21st June.

- The **theme for the year 2020** is 'Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home', which takes into account the social distancing measures announced by most countries amid Covid-19 pandemic. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

5. Under which schedule of the Constitution of India Anti-Defection Law has been enacted?
- a. Third Schedule
 - b. Fifth Schedule
 - c. Ninth Schedule
 - d. Tenth Schedule

Answer- (d)

Explanation:

Disqualification under the Tenth Schedule

- The **Anti-Defection Law** was passed in **1985 through the 52nd amendment** to the Constitution. It added the **Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution**. The main intent of the law was to combat “the evil of political defections”. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**
 - According to it, **a member of a House belonging to any political party** becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, if:
 - he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
 - he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
6. With reference to Civil Services Board (CSB) of states, consider the following statements:
1. It is generally headed by the Chief Secretary of a state.
 2. It provides for the state to follow Centre’s guidelines on giving a fixed tenure of at least five years for cadre officers.
- 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, the Punjab government has set up a three-member **Civil Services Board (CSB)** for transfers and postings of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in the state.
- **The CSB is headed by the Chief Secretary of a state** and has the senior most additional chief secretary or chairman, Board of Revenue, Financial

Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank and status as a member. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The CSB provides for the state to follow Centre's guidelines on giving a **fixed tenure of at least two years (not five years)** for cadre officers. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- If anyone recommends the transfer of the officers before the completion of tenure, then the board will examine and effect it. The final authority in this regard is the Chief Minister.

7. Which of the following are valid conditions a party has to satisfy for recognition as a National Party?
1. 10% valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the State legislative assembly.
 2. 2% of all Lok Sabha seats in the last such election, with MPs elected from at least three states.
 3. Recognition as a state party in at least four states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- For recognition as a National Party, a party has to satisfy the following conditions:
 - **6% (NOT 10%) valid votes polled** in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the State legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - 2% of all Lok Sabha seats in the last such election, with MPs elected from at least three states. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - Recognition as a state party in at least four states. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

8. With reference to Ahom kingdom, consider the following statements:
1. In the late medieval period this kingdom ruled over the state of Assam.
 2. The rulers of Ahom Kingdom followed Buddhism.

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 late medieval period Ahom kingdom ruled over the state of Assam. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, there has been a controversy in Assam regarding Chaolung Sukapha who founded the Ahom kingdom.
- Amidst the ongoing **India-China border tension**, he has been repeatedly referred to as a Chinese invader.
- Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods but instead of imposing their own language, religion and rituals on communities living in Assam, they accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language.
- However, the Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs after adopting Hinduism. The rulers of Ahom Kingdom did not follow Buddhism. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

9. With reference to Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The basic unit for development is Gram Panchayat.
2. The Members of Parliament can facilitate resource mobilisation from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for this programme.

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:

- Under **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024. This programme has the following arrangements:
 - **Gram Panchayat is the basic unit for development. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Lok Sabha MP: Chooses a Gram Panchayat from within his/her constituency.
 - Rajya Sabha MP: Chooses Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State from which he/she is elected.
 - Nominated MPs: Choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country.
 - The MPs engage with the community, facilitate the Village Development Plan and **mobilise the necessary resources, particularly from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and philanthropies. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

10. Consider the following statements:
1. The Pacific Ring of Fire is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
 2. Mount Merapi is an active volcano situated in Eastern part of the ring.

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 Pacific Ring of Fire**, also referred to as the **Circum-Pacific Belt**, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - About 75% of Earth's volcanoes i.e. more than 450 volcanoes are located along the Ring of Fire. 90% of Earth's earthquakes occur along its path, including the planet's most violent and dramatic seismic events.
- **Mount Merapi** is the most active of Indonesia's 130 active volcanoes. It is situated **in western part of the ring. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

11. Senkaku Islands are disputed islands among which of the following:

- a. China and Japan
- b. China and Taiwan
- c. China, South Korea and Japan
- d. China, Taiwan and Japan

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Senkaku Islands are disputed islands among China, Japan and Taiwan.
 - It is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands known as the **Senkaku Islands in Japan, the Diaoyu Islands in China and Tiaoyutai Islands in Taiwan. Hence, option D is correct.**

12. With reference to Schemes and the states to which they belong, consider the following pairs:

1. Mukhyamantri Shahri Rozgar Manjuri for Kamgar Yojana- Jharkhand
2. Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme- Kerala
3. Yuva Swabhiman Yojana-Chattisgarh

Which of the pairs given above are matched correctly?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Recently Jharkhand launched a 100-day employment scheme for urban unskilled workers similar to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) amid the coronavirus pandemic and increasing unemployment.

- The scheme will be known as Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri for Kamgar) Yojana. **Hence, the pair 1 is correct.**
- It aims at enhancing livelihood security for the urban poor. They will be given priority in the existing schemes. If they could not be accommodated in existing schemes, exclusive schemes for the purpose will be created and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) would be given separate funds for this.

Examples from Other States:

- Recently, the Odisha government announced a Rs 100-crore Urban Wage Employment Initiative.
- Kerala also runs Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS). **Hence, the pair 2 is correct.**
- "Yuva Swabhiman Yojana" of Madhya Pradesh (not Chhattisgarh) provides employment for both skilled and unskilled workers among urban youth. **Hence, the pair 3 is not correct.**

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Oppressive agrarian setup was one of the major causes for the Moplah rebellion.
2. The Moplah rebellion coincided with the countrywide Non-cooperation movement.

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 Malabar rebellion, also known as the Moplah rebellion, was an armed revolt staged by the Mappila Muslims of Kerala in 1921.
- The Moplah tenants agitated against the Hindu landlords (locally referred to as janmi) and the British government. Most of their grievances were related to the security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other unfair exactions of the landlords. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The rebellion coincided with the countrywide Non-cooperation movement. In August 1920, Gandhi along with Shaukat Ali (the leader of the Khilafat movement in India) visited Calicut to spread the combined message of non-cooperation and Khilafat among the residents of Malabar. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- In response to Gandhi's call, a Khilafat committee was formed in Malabar and the Mappilas, under their religious head Mahadum Tungal of Ponnani who pledged support to the non-cooperation movement.

14. With reference to “YUKTI 2.0 portal”, consider the following statements:
1. It is a portal launched by The Ministry of Science and Technology.
 2. It fosters the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in academic institutions.

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

- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has launched an initiative ‘YUKTI 2.0’ to help **systematically assimilate technologies** having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- YUKTI 2.0 is an extension of ‘YUKTI (Young India combating Covid with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) Portal’ which was launched to identify ideas relevant in Covid pandemic.
- The Ministry has invited students, faculty members, startups and other stakeholders of higher education institutions to register on the YUKTI portal and share their technologies and innovations.
 - In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat, YUKTI 2.0 will also help in fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in academic institutions. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. Consider the following pairs:

New Year Festival

Region

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Navreh | Maharashtra |
| 2. Losoong | Ladakh |
| 3. Ashadhi Bij | Kutch |

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

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Navreh** It is the lunar New Year that is celebrated in **Kashmir**. It falls on the very first day of the Chaitra Navratri. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Losoong** also known as Namsoong is the **Sikkimese New Year**. It is usually the time when the farmers rejoice and celebrate their harvest.
 - It is mostly celebrated in the month of December every year with traditional gaiety and colour both by the Lepchas and Bhutias. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Ashadhi Bij** falls on the second day of Shukla paksha of Ashada month of Hindu calendar.
 - The festival is associated with the beginning of rains in the **Kutch region of Gujarat**.
 - During Ashadhi Bij, the moisture in the atmosphere is checked to predict which crop would do best in the coming monsoon. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

16. Consider the following statements:

1. Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
2. An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

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 anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.
- Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

17. With reference to 'Government e-Marketplace (GeM)', consider the following statements:
1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 2. It provides the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money.
- 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:

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- **GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal** to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments, Organisations and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- It was launched in 2016 to bring transparency and efficiency in the government buying process.
- It is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.
- It also provides the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- At present, GeM has more than 15 lakh products, around 20,000 services, and more than 40,000 Government buyer organisations.

18. With reference to Initial Public Offer (IPO), consider the following statements:
1. IPO is the selling of securities to the public in the secondary market.
 2. Under it an unlisted company makes either a fresh issue of securities or an offer for sale of its existing securities or both for the first time to the public.
- 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:

- **Initial Public Offer (IPO)** is the selling of securities to the public in the **primary market (a type of capital market)**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under IPO, an unlisted company makes **either a fresh issue of securities** or an **offer for sale of its existing securities** or **both for the first time to the public**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

19. 'ICEDASH', recently seen in the news, has been launched by

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Ministry of Law and Justice
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer- (a)

Explanation:

- **The Ministry of Finance** (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) launched two Information Technology (IT) initiatives - **ICEDASH** and **ATITHI**.
 - **ICEDASH**- For improved monitoring of customs clearance of imported goods.
 - **ATITHI** - For facilitating arriving international passengers.
- **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

20. Consider the following pairs:

Military Exercise

1. INDRA
2. Bold Kurukshetra
3. Varuna

Participating Countries

- India- Russia
India - Singapore
India- Germany

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:**Military Exercise**

1. INDRA
2. Bold Kurukshetra
3. Varuna

Participating Countries

- India- Russia
India - Singapore
India- France

Hence, Option (b) is correct.

MAINS QUESTIONS

1. On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such a person against his disqualification. **(UPSC 2019)**
2. Recent suicides of famous personalities show suicide is not only an economic deprivation but more than that. Discuss policy of India regarding mental health. Also suggest some innovative steps.



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