

2020



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. With reference to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), consider the following statements:
1. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.
  2. India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level.

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:**

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** identify the post-2020 voluntary national climate targets, including mitigation and adaptation, which countries committed to and which will become a binding Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) when a country ratifies the Paris Agreement. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

**Salient features of India's INDC**

- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

2. Consider the following pairs:

<b>National Parks</b>	<b>State</b>
1. Rajaji National Park	Uttarakhand
2. Anshi National Park	Tamil Nadu
3. Betla National Park	Chhattisgarh

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

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

**Answer- (a)**

**Explanation:**

<b>National Parks</b>	<b>State</b>
1. Rajaji National Park	Uttarakhand
2. Anshi National Park	Karnataka
3. Betla National Park	Jharkhand

**Hence, Option (a) is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Radio waves have the shortest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum.
2. They are generally in the frequency range from 500 kHz to about 1000 MHz.

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:**

**Radio Waves**

- Radio waves have the **longest wavelengths** in the electromagnetic spectrum. **Hence, Statement 1 is not Correct.**
- These were discovered by Heinrich Hertz in the late 1880s.
- These are produced by the accelerated motion of charges in conducting wires. They are used in radio and television communication systems.
- They are generally in the frequency range from 500 kHz to about 1000 MHz. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

4. Which of the following states is/are part of Line of Actual Control?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Sikkim
3. Uttarakhand
4. Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer- (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Line of Actual Control**

- **Demarcation Line:** The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- **Sectors Across the LAC:**
  - It is divided into **three sectors**: the eastern sector which spans **Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim** (1346 km), the middle sector in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** (545 km), and the western sector in Ladakh (1597 km).

- The alignment of the LAC in the eastern sector is along the 1914 McMahon Line.
- The McMahon line marked out previously unclaimed/undefined borders between Britain and Tibet.
- The middle sector is the least disputed sector, while the western sector witnesses the highest transgressions between the two sides.

5. Which of the following countries border the Adriatic Sea?

1. Albania
2. Bosnia
3. Croatia
4. Italy

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer- (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Adriatic Sea is a northernmost part of the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is a body of water separating the Italian Peninsula from the Balkan peninsula.
- The countries with coasts on the Adriatic are **Albania, Bosnia** and Herzegovina, **Croatia, Italy**, Montenegro and Slovenia. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**
- The southern boundary of the sea ends in the Strait of Otranto between Albania and Italy's Salento Peninsula. Immediately south of that strait the Ionian Sea begins.

6. Consider the following statements about Sankalp Parva:

1. The initiative aims to plant at least five trees either in office campus or wherever it is possible, to ensure a clean and healthy environment of the country.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate Change.

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 initiative has been taken on the call of the Prime Minister to plant at least five trees either in office campus or wherever it is possible, to ensure a clean and healthy environment of the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- The Ministry of Culture is celebrating ‘Sankalp Parva’ to plant trees from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Scheduled Bank is any bank which is listed in the 2nd schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 is considered a scheduled bank.
2. For a bank to be scheduled, the paid up capital and collected fund of the bank should not be less than Rs. 2 lakh.
3. Commercial Banks refers to both scheduled and non-scheduled commercial banks which are regulated under the RBI Act 1934.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer(b)**

**Explanation:**

- Scheduled Banks: Any bank which is listed in the 2nd schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 is considered a scheduled bank. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The paid up capital and collected fund of the bank should not be less than Rs. 5 lakh. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Commercial Banks: It refers to both scheduled and non-scheduled commercial banks which are regulated under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

8. Consider the following statements about Kole wetlands:

1. Kole Wetlands is a wetland lying in thittukottai district of Tamil Nadu.
2. It gives 40% of Tamil Nadu’s rice requirement and acts as a natural drainage system.

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:**

- Kole Wetlands is a wetland lying in Thrissur District in Kerala. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**
- It gives 40% of Kerala's rice requirement and acts as a natural drainage system. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is a part of Vembanad-Kole wetlands, a Ramsar site and has been colonised by invasive species.

9. The concession agreement on the 'Kholongchhu Hydropower Project', was recently signed with which neighbouring country by India?
- a. China
  - b. Nepal
  - c. Bhutan
  - d. Myanmar

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **India and Bhutan** have signed a concession agreement on the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydropower Project.
  - It will be the first-ever Joint Venture (JV) project between India and Bhutan.
  - The JV partners are Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), and the Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) from India and Bhutan respectively. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located on the lower course of the **Kholongchhu river** in eastern Bhutan's **Trashiyangtse district**.
- The project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2025.
- The project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture.

10. Recently a team of researchers have "rediscovered" a rare plant species called *Globba andersonii* from which of the following states:

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Sikkim
- c. Assam
- d. Meghalaya

**Answer(b)**

**Explanation:**

- A team of researchers have "rediscovered" a rare plant species called *Globba andersonii* from the Sikkim Himalayas.
- The species has been found near the Teesta river valley region after a gap of nearly 136 years. **Hence option B is correct.**

11. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nagar Van Scheme aims to develop at least one urban forest for every city in India.

2. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 established Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

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 **Nagar Van (Urban Forest) Scheme** of the central government aims to develop **200 Urban Forests across the country in the next five years. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act** was passed in 2016 to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by Ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
  - **CAF Act established the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF). Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

12. With reference to 'Bharat Net Project', consider the following statements:

1. It aims for creation of a robust infrastructure for providing broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.
2. It only provides access to the public sector telecom service providers to launch various services in rural areas.

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:**

- **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** was launched in October 2011 and was renamed as Bharat Net Project in 2015.
  - BharatNet is a flagship mission implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
  - It is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 1956.
  - It was envisaged as an information superhighway through the **creation of a robust middle-mile infrastructure** for providing



broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Ministry of Communications has launched the National Broadband Mission that will **facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services** across the country, especially in rural and remote areas.
- **Non-discriminatory access** to the NOFN was provided to **all the service providers** like **Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Cable TV operators** and content providers to launch various services in rural areas. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The entire project is being funded by the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, which was set up for improving telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country.

13. Consider the following statements:

1. In an emergency situation the scheduled banks borrow from the RBI through Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).
2. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) is a tool used by RBI to allow the bank to borrow money through repurchase agreements.

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:**

- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** is a tool by which the Reserve Bank **adjusts money supply in the economy**. It is a monetary policy tool which allows the bank to borrow money through **repurchase agreements (repo and reverse repos)**. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **Repo Rate:** The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank lends money to banks against the collateral of government and other approved securities under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF). It is also the benchmark policy rate.
  - **Reverse Repo Rate:** The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank borrows money from banks against the collateral of eligible government securities under LAF
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** is a special window for banks to borrow from RBI against approved government securities in an emergency situation like an acute cash shortage. MSF rate is higher than the Repo rate. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**



14. Consider the following statements:
1. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis is considered the father of modern statistics in India.
  2. National Statistics Day is observed on 29th June.
- 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:**

- Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (1893-1972) is considered the father of modern statistics in India, founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), shaped the Planning Commission (and later NITI Aayog) and pioneered methodologies for large-scale surveys.
  - He also devised a statistical method called ‘Fractile Graphical Analysis’, used to compare socio-economic conditions of varied groups.
  - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Every year, the National Statistics Day is celebrated on 29th June, the birth anniversary of P. C. Mahalanobis, to recognise his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

15. With reference to ‘PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme’, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is based on One District One Product (ODOP) Approach.
2. It will be implemented over a period of 10 years from 2020-21.
3. It focuses on Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts.

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. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** has launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme** as a part of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’.
- The scheme is based on One District One Product (ODOP) Approach. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The States would identify food products for districts keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.
- The ODOP could be a perishable produce based or cereal based or a food item widely produced in an area. E.g. mango, potato, pickle, millet based products, fisheries, poultry, etc.
- It will be implemented over a period of **five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Other Focus Areas:
  - **Waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Academic and research institutions under MoFPI along with State Level Technical Institutions would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.

16. With reference to Gangotri National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The origin of river Ganga and Yamuna river is located inside the park.
2. The park is enveloped by dense coniferous forests.

Select 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: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Gangotri National Park was established in 1989 and is situated in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, in the upper catchment of Bhagirathi River.
- **Gaumukh at Gangotri glacier, the origin of river Ganga, is located inside the park.**
- The Yamuna rises on the slopes of the Bandarpunch massif in the Great Himalayas near Yamunotri in western Uttarakhand and **not in Gangotri National Park. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The park area forms a viable continuity between **Govind National Park** and **Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- Flora: **The park is enveloped by dense coniferous forests** that are mostly temperate. Chirpine, deodar, fir, spruce, oak and rhododendron are the common vegetation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Fauna: Various rare and endangered species like bharal or blue sheep, black bear, brown bear, himalayan monal, himalayan snowcock, himalayan tahr, musk deer and snow leopard are found in the park.

17. With reference to STARS Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It envisages 80% of electricity efficiency by 2025.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Power.

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:**

- Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Programme envisages improving the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan through the Samagra Shiksha. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- It has been launched by the World Bank. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

18. Consider the following statements:

1. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism developed by UNDP in 2005.
2. REDD+ mechanism provides financial incentives to developing countries for stopping deforestation.
3. The Green Climate Fund was formed for financing REDD+ programs.

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. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2005. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - The “Plus” in REDD+, laying out the various ways in which countries have defined the three activities: conservation, the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock.
- It provides financial incentives to developing countries that prove they stopped deforestation during a certain period of time. This is done

through rigorous UN-backed technical evaluations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) established at Conference Of Parties (COP)-17 to function as the financial mechanism for the UNFCCC, is currently financing REDD+ programs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - Brazil, which received \$96.5 million under the results-based payments, was the first recipient country.

19. With reference to the Attorney General (AG) of India, which of the following is/are correct?

1. Term of the Office has been fixed as 5 years in the Constitution Of India.
2. Procedure for his/her removal is stated in Article 76 of the Constitution.
3. AG has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha only.

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. None of the above

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- Term of the Office of the Attorney General (AG) of India **is not fixed by the Constitution. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG **are not stated in the Constitution.** She/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Rights and Limitations:**
  - **S/he has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament** or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which s/he may be named a member, but without a right to vote. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - S/he enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of Parliament.
  - S/he does not fall in the category of government servants. S/he is not debarred from private legal practice.

20. CogX, a global leadership summit, is related to:
- Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technology
  - Preservation of Corals
  - Space Junk
  - Freedom of Press

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- CogX is a Global Leadership Summit and Festival of Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technology held annually in London.
- It awards the best-of-the-best in AI and emerging technologies across the world.
- At CogX 2020, India's MyGov Corona Helpdesk Chatbot has bagged two awards under categories:
  - Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society
  - People's Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner

### MAINS QUESTIONS

1. The Criminal Justice System in India (CJSI) is in a state of uncertainty and is highly unpopular due to its inefficiency. The reform in CJSI is long due and needs immediate change. Identify the major issues and suggest policy measures to reform the CJSI.
2. The Government of India has opened the door for private players in Indian Railways recently. Critically analyse the need for privatisation of Indian railways. Also discuss its various advantages and disadvantages.

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