

2020



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

13th July - 18th July



BusinessLine



1. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?
 - a. India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
 - b. India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
 - c. India will not depend on Pakistan for Access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
 - d. Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- Chabahar port is located on the Gulf of Oman and is only 72 km away from the Gwadar port in Pakistan which has been developed by China.
- The Chabahar port is being considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade with Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to India. **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The European Union was created by the Maastricht Treaty.
2. The European Union is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- European Union (EU), is an international organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies.
- The EU was created by the Maastricht Treaty, which entered into force on November 1, 1993. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The treaty was designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single currency (the euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.
- EU is the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

3. Which of the following countries borders the Persian Gulf?

1. Iran
2. Bahrain
3. Iraq
4. Kuwait
5. Oman

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Persian Gulf Region

- The lands around the Persian Gulf are shared by eight countries namely, **Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman**, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. T cells are so called because they are predominantly produced in the thymus.
- 2. They recognise foreign particles (antigen) by a surface expressed, highly variable, T cell receptor (TCR).

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:

- T cells are so called because they are **predominantly produced in the thymus. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- They recognise foreign particles (antigen) by a surface expressed, highly variable, T cell receptor (TCR). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- There are two major types of T cells: **the helper T cell** and the **cytotoxic T cell**.
- As the names suggest, helper T cells ‘help’ other cells of the immune system, whilst cytotoxic T cells kill virally infected cells and tumours.
- The severity of disease can depend on the strength of these T cell responses.

5. The term ‘M-STrIPES’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- a. Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
- b. Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
- c. Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
- d. Security of National Highways

Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **M-STripES (Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status)** is an app based monitoring system, launched across Indian tiger reserves by the NTCA in 2010. **Hence, Option (b) is correct.**

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Remission implies awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
2. Respite implies reducing the period of the sentence without changing its character.
3. Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer-(c)

Explanation:

- **Remission:** It implies reducing the period of the sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for five years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**
- **Respite:** It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**
- **Reprieve:** It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

7. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is released by:

- a. WEF
- b. UNICEF
- c. UNDP and OPHI
- d. IMF

Answer-(c)

Explanation:

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020 was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI). **Hence, Option (c) is correct**

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The EU as a whole was India's largest trading partner while India was EU's 5th largest trading partner in 2018.
2. India is also the second largest service exporter to the EU and the third largest destination for service exports from the EU.

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:

- The EU as a whole was India's largest trading partner while India was EU's 9th largest trading partner in 2018. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- India is also the fourth largest service exporter to the EU and the sixth largest destination for service exports from the EU. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

9. Consider the following statements:

1. DIKSHA Portal was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child development in 2017.
2. NISHTHA 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:

- DIKSHA Portal was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 2017. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) is a capacity building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

10. Consider the following statements about Melghat Tiger Reserve:

1. It lies in Melghat Forests of Amravati district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra bordering Madhya Pradesh in the North and East.
2. It was the first Tiger Reserve to be declared in the State of Maharashtra.
3. The Bhania tribe adds to the cultural diversity of the Reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer-(a)

Explanation:

- It lies in Melghat Forests of Amravati district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra bordering Madhya Pradesh in the North and East.
- It is a part of the Satpura-Maikal landscape. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- It was the first Tiger Reserve to be declared in the State of Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Korku tribe adds to the cultural diversity of the Reserve. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

11. Recently 'RCF SAFEROLA' was heard in the news. What is it related to?

- a. A hand cleansing IsoPropyl Alcohol based gel.
- b. A military tactic to keep Indian border safe from Chinese aggression.
- c. A safe and effective testing kit for Covid-19.
- d. A new edible oil variety extracted from the Sunflower.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- 'RCF SAFEROLA' is a hand cleansing IsoPropyl Alcohol (IPA) Based Gel that assists the government in its effort to combat Covid -19.
- The hand cleansing gel is a skin friendly moisturizer based hand-sanitizer which contains IsoPropyl Alcohol (IPA) and Aloe Vera extract. It is enriched with Vitamin-E and has a fresh lime fragrance.
- 'RCF SAFEROLA' has been introduced by a 'mini ratna' company Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF). **Hence, option A is correct.**

12. With reference to FASTag, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an electronic system with reloadable tag feature for automatic deduction of toll tax.
- 2. It uses the radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag.
- 3. It does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- FASTag was introduced in 2017, it is an electronic toll collection system with reloadable tag feature which allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - The reloadable tag allows addition of monetary values multiple times.
 - It is operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under the supervision of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The tag uses Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
 - RFID is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

13. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) can postpone the elections to the Legislative Assembly only in the case of natural calamities.
2. In case of early dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the ECI has to conduct the elections within six month of the dissolution.

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 **Election Commission (EC) of India** is mandated under law to **hold elections at any time within six months** before the five-year term of the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly expires.
 - In the case of early dissolution, EC has to ensure a new Lok Sabha or Assembly is in place **within six months of the dissolution.**
 - The six months is the constitutionally defined limit between two sessions of the House/Assembly (Article 85(1) and Article 174(1) of the Constitution, respectively). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

- Article 172(1) states that, in case of a **state of Emergency**, an election can be postponed for one year at a time in addition to a period of six months after the Emergency is lifted.
 - There is no specific legal provision that specifies the circumstances under which elections can be deferred in non-Emergency situations.
 - However, **law and order, natural calamities** like earthquakes and floods, or any other compelling circumstances which are beyond EC's control can be the grounds for extension. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

14. With reference to NATGRID, consider the following statements:

1. It is established under the National Security Act.
2. It is an integrated intelligence grid which will connect databases of security agencies and economic institutions.
3. It works under the effective control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID was established in 2009, in the wake of Mumbai terrorist attacks 2008, through governmental notifications rather than legislation passed in Parliament. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- NATGRID was formed with an aim to collect comprehensive patterns of intelligence that can be readily accessed by intelligence agencies, and will link 10 user agencies with certain databases that would be procured from 21 organisations.
 - The project aims to allow investigation and law enforcement agencies to access real-time information from data stored with agencies such as the Income Tax Department, banks, insurance companies, Indian Railways, credit card transactions, and more. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home affairs. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

15. Long March 5B' rocket is associated with which of the following?

- a. Mars mission
- b. Commercial satellite launching
- c. Establishing permanent space station
- d. Launching of communication satellites

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Recently, China has successfully launched the Long March 5B' rocket and prototype spacecraft.
- It is being considered as China's successful step to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the Moon. **Hence, option C is correct.**

16. With reference to Tiger Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Tiger census is done every five years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
2. India has fulfilled its resolution made in 2010 to double the Tiger numbers, before the target year of 2022.
3. India's 2018 Tiger Census is the world's largest camera trapping wildlife survey.

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

- The **Tiger Census in India is done quadrennially (every four years)** by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** with technical help from the Wildlife Institute of India. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It is done with cooperation from the state Forest Departments and partners.
- **India has also fulfilled its resolution to double the Tiger numbers made at St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010, before the target year of 2022.**
 - The tiger numbers in India have increased from around 1500 in 2010 to 2976 in 2020. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

- **India's 2018 Tiger Census** has made it to the **Guinness Book of World Records** for being the world's **largest camera trapping wildlife survey**. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.



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17. The “Padmanabhaswamy Temple”, sometimes seen in the news, belongs to which style of architecture?

- a. Chola
- b. Cheras
- c. Pandyas
- d. Hoysala

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- According to Historians, the **Padmanabhaswamy Temple** dates back to the 8th century but the present structure was built in the 18th century by the then **Travancore Maharaja Marthanda Varma**.
 - The temple was initially made of wood but later it was constructed with granite.
- The temple is built in the unique **Chera style of architecture**, and its main deity is Lord Vishnu who is found in the Anantha Shayana posture (reclined posture of eternal yoga) on Adishesha or king of all serpents.
Hence, option B is correct.
 - It is known to be one of the 108 holy temples associated with Vaishnavism in India.
- Recently, the Supreme Court of India upheld the right of the Travancore royal family to manage the property of deity at Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).

18. The ‘Tangam language’ which is marked ‘critically endangered’ by UNESCO is spoken in which state?

- a. Kerala
- b. Chattisgarh
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Mizoram

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh has released a book titled “Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh”.
 - The book has valuable data on endangered oral narratives like ritual songs, lamentation songs, lullabies and festival songs in Tangam language spoken by the Tangam community, which has reportedly 253 speakers left now.
- Tangam People is a little-known community within the larger **Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh**.

- Tangam is an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater Tibeto-Burman language family.
- It has been marked 'critically endangered' by the **UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009)**. Hence, option C is correct.

19. 'Pragyata', recently seen in the news, is related to

- a. Guidelines by RBI to achieve secured online transactions.
- b. A commander level MOUs between India and Nepal to solve boundary disputes peacefully.
- c. Guidelines by the Human Resource Development Ministry on Digital education.
- d. Guideline by Union Health Ministry to private hospitals for the covid-19 patients' treatment.

Answer : (c)

Explanation

- **PRAGYATA is a title given to the guidelines by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on Digital education. Hence, option C is correct.**
- The guidelines have been prepared by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- These are only advisory in nature and state governments can formulate their own rules, based on local needs.
- The guidelines include eight steps of online/digital learning i.e. **Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate.**

20. With reference to Inflation, consider the following statements:

1. It is indicative of an increase in the purchasing power of a country's currency.
2. It measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.

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

- Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing, recreation, transport, consumer staples, etc.

- Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Inflation is **indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency**. This could ultimately lead to a deceleration in economic growth. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- However, a moderate level of inflation is required in the economy to ensure that production is promoted.
- In India, the NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation measures inflation. In India, inflation is primarily measured by two main indices — **WPI (Wholesale Price Index)** and CPI (Consumer Price Index) which measure wholesale and retail-level price changes, respectively.

MAINS QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the evolution of Modern India.
2. Assess the importance of augmenting the funds of the local bodies. What steps can be taken to increase the devolution of finances to the local government?

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