

2019



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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1. Consider the following:
 1. Particulate Matter (PM 2.5,10)
 2. Sulphur Dioxide
 3. Carbon Monoxide
 4. Mercury
 5. Ammonia

Air Quality Index is calculated for which of the above pollutants?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Air Quality Index is calculated for following **eight pollutants:**

- Particulate Matter (PM 2.5, PM 10)
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O₃)
- Ammonia (NH₃)
- Lead (Pb)

Thus, Mercury is not included in the Air Quality Index. **SAFAR**, that is, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, measures all the weather parameters along with Mercury and Black Carbon in real time. Hence, **Option (c) is correct.**

2. With reference to **National Infrastructure Investment fund (NIIF)**, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The NIIF is a sovereign fund owned by the Government of India along with global and domestic institutional players.
2. It has a corpus of Rs. 4,00,000 crore at present.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- The NIIF is a sovereign fund owned by the government of India (49% ownership) along with global and domestic institutional players. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The size of fund is Rs. 40,000 crore. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

3. The terms “Pegasus”, “Adware”, “Trojan” sometimes mentioned in the news are related to:

- (a) Exoplanets
- (b) Spyware
- (c) Cryptocurrencies
- (d) Mini Satellites

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pegasus** is a spyware that works by sending an exploit link, and if the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user’s phone.
 - It can even be installed by whatsapp call/whatsapp video call etc.
- **Adware tracks** browser history and downloads, with the intent of predicting what products or services a person may be interested in.
- **Trojan** can be used to access sensitive information such as social security numbers and credit card information.
- Hence, **Option (b) is the correct answer.**

4. With reference to AMRUT scheme, consider the following statements:

1. This scheme adopts a project approach to ensure basic infrastructure services.
2. Central assistance will be to the extent of 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of above 10 lakhs.
3. Under the mission, states will transfer funds to urban local bodies within 7 days of transfer by the central government.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- AMRUT, launched in 2015, adopts a project approach to ensure basic infrastructure services. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Central assistance will be to the extent of:
 - 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of up to 10 lakhs.
 - One-third of the project cost for those with a population of above 10 lakhs.
- **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Under the mission, states will transfer funds to urban local bodies within 7 days of transfer by the central government. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

5. Regarding Electoral Bonds, which of the following statements is *not* correct?

- (a) Electoral Bonds are interest-free bearer instruments available for purchase from the State Bank of India within a designated window of 10 days in every quarter of the financial year.
- (b) The intending donors can purchase these bonds through cash, cheque and digital payments.
- (c) The bonds remain valid for 15 days and can be encashed by an eligible political party only through authorised bank within 15 days.
- (d) These bonds can only be encashed by political parties, which had secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or state election.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Electoral bonds are issued upon authorisation from the Central Government to intending donors, but only against cheque and digital payments; it cannot be purchased by paying cash. **Hence, Statement b is not correct.**
- All other statements are correct.

6. With reference to the ‘National Tiger Conservation Authority’, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It was constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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:

National Tiger Conservation Authority

- It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was established in December 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was constituted under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **Hence, Statement 2 is Correct.**

7. With reference to 'BHIM 2.0', consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. It can operate through a single bank account only.
3. It supports Konkani, Bhojpuri and Haryanvi languages.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- BHIM has been developed by the National Payment Corporation of India. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- BHIM 2.0 includes:
 - Donation Gateway.
 - Increased transaction limits for high value transactions.
 - Linking multiple bank accounts. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Gifting money.
- It also supports three additional languages — **Konkani, Bhojpuri and Haryanvi. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Under BHIM 2.0, the existing cap of Rs. 20,000 has been increased to Rs. 1,00,000 from verified merchants.

8. Which of the following is/are the source (s) of Nutraceuticals?

1. Probiotics
2. Prebiotics
3. Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids
4. Antioxidant Vitamins

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Nutraceutical is the hybrid of ‘nutrition’ and ‘pharmaceutical’.
- Nutraceuticals are food or part of food playing a significant role in modifying and maintaining normal physiological function that maintains healthy human beings.
- **Sources**
 - Dietary Fibre
 - Probiotics
 - Prebiotics
 - Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids
 - Antioxidant Vitamins

Hence, Option (d) is correct.

9. ‘Project-75’ is associated with:
- (a) Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.
 - (b) Scorpene Development.
 - (c) Providing affordable housing for all before 2022.
 - (d) Doubling the farmers income by giving subsidised fertilizers.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Project 75-India envisages to build up six advanced stealth submarines.
Hence, option (b) is correct.
- Project 75 Submarines- INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Vela, S53, S54 and S55.
- The first submarine INS Kalavari was handed over to Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Limited (Mumbai) in 2017.

10. With reference to ‘Serious Fraud Investigation Office’, consider the following statements:

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. It has been accorded statutory status under the Companies Act, 2013.

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:

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO):

- SFIO is a multi-disciplinary organisation under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It consists of experts from the field of accountancy, forensic auditing, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation.
- It investigates and recommends prosecution for white-collar crimes.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi.**
- It has been accorded statutory status under the Companies Act, 2013. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

MAINS QUESTIONS:

Q. Analyse India's relations with Saudi Arabia amidst the geopolitical flux in Southwest Asia. (250 words)

Q. Mention the key points of the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019. Also, discuss the concerns associated with it and suggest a way forward. (250 words)

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