

2020



drishti

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**WEEKLY PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

10<sup>th</sup> February - 15<sup>th</sup> February



1. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Mohiniattam	Kerala
2. Chindu Yakshaganam	Karnataka
3. Chapchar Kut Festival	Manipur
4. Khongjom Parba ballad	Mizoram

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Mohiniattam is the classical solo dance form of Kerala. **Hence, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The Chindu Yakshaganam is an age-old theatre art form popular in Telangana. **Hence, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Chapchar Kut Festival is one of the oldest festivals of Mizoram. **Hence, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Khongjom Parba ballad is a style of ballad singing from Manipur. **Hence, Pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

2. Which of the following are tributaries of Godavari?

- 1. Indravati
- 2. Wainganga
- 3. Shimsha
- 4. Pranhita

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The major tributaries of the river Godavari are-
  - Wainganga
  - Purna
  - Pranhita
  - Indravati
  - Sabari
  - Pravara
  - Manjira
- Shimsha is a tributary of the **Kaveri River**.
- **Major tributaries of Kaveri river**
  - Harangi River
  - Shimsha

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| ○ Hemavati River   | ○ Bhavani River |
| ○ Lakshmana Tirtha | ○ Kabini River  |
| ○ Amaravathi River | ○ Noyyal River  |

3. With references to Nilgiri Tahr, consider the following statements:
1. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red list.
  2. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
  3. It has been listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Nilgiri Tahr is also known as Nilgiri Ibex.
- IUCN Red List Status = **“Endangered”**. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- It has been listed under **Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.
- It is the **state animal of Tamil Nadu**.
- **The state animal of Kerala is Indian Elephant**. Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.

4. Mukurthi National Park is located in

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Telangana

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Nilgiri tahr’s population has increased from 568 in 2018 to 612 in 2019 in the **Mukurthi National Park, Tamil Nadu**.

5. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan case, sometimes mentioned in news, is related with

- (a) Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- (b) Reservation in appointments and promotions
- (c) Criminalisation of Politics
- (d) Anti-defection Law (10th Schedule)

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

In **Subhash Kashinath Mahajan v. State of Maharashtra** 2018, the Supreme Court had diluted the stringent provisions of SC/ST Act.

- SC has ruled that there is no absolute bar against grant of anticipatory bail under the anti-atrocities law if no prima facie case is made out or if judicial scrutiny reveals the complaint to be prima facie malafide.

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

6. The word 'Thanatotheristes' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to

- (a) Fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
- (b) An early human species
- (c) A cave system found in North-East India.
- (d) A geological period in the history of the Indian subcontinent

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation :**

- **Thanatotheristes:** The scientists have revealed that a dinosaur fossil, found in Alberta in Canada (2010), belongs to a new species of tyrannosaur.

7. Which of the following countries is/are members of BIMSTEC?

- 1. Bangladesh
- 2. India
- 3. Bhutan
- 4. Indonesia
- 5. Thailand

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- BIMSTEC is a sub-regional intergovernmental organisation that came into being in 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- It is a 7 member grouping that links 5 countries from South Asia namely:
  - **Bangladesh**
  - **India**
  - **Sri Lanka**
  - **Bhutan**
  - **Nepal**

- 2 countries from South-east Asia:
    - **Myanmar**
    - **Thailand**
- Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Wainganga River is the tributary of the Mahanadi River.
2. It drains Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
3. Gosikhurd irrigation project is being constructed on the Wainganga River.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Wainganga rises in the **Mahadeo Hills** in the Seoni District of **Madhya Pradesh**.
  - Wainganga River is the **tributary of the Godavari River**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It drains **Madhya Pradesh** and **Maharashtra**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Kanhan River** is the longest tributary of Wainganga river.
  - Kanhan River rises in the hills at the southern edge of the **Satpura Range** in the Chhindwara District (**Madhya Pradesh**).
- The river forms the boundary between **Maharashtra** and **Telangana** states and is known as the **Pranhita**.
- **Gosikhurd irrigation project** is being constructed on the Wainganga River.  
**Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Mt. Aconcagua lies in the Southern Andes.
2. Mt. Aconcagua is an active volcano.

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:**

- At 6962 metres, Mt. Aconcagua is the **highest peak outside Asia**.
- Aconcagua is a mountain in the Principal Cordillera of the Andes mountain range Argentina.
- It lies in the **Southern Andes. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - Andes is the world's longest mountain range that is located along the entire western coast of South America.
- Aconcagua is of volcanic origin, but it is not itself an active volcano. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

10. With reference to 'Yara Virus', consider the following statements:

1. The Yaravirus does not infect human cells.
2. It has been discovered in Lake Pampulha, Brazil.

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 Yarra Virus infects amoeba and has genes that have not been described before, something that could challenge how Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) viruses are classified.
- The Yaravirus does not infect human cells. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Yara virus has been discovered in Lake Pampulha, Brazil. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

11. With reference to 'Konark Sun Temple', consider the following statements:

1. The temple was made by Indravarman, the Eastern Ganga king in the 13th century in Puri, Odisha.
2. It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.

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 temple was made by Narasimhadeva I, the Eastern Ganga king in the 13th century in Puri, Odisha. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

- The temple is in a shape of “Rath”(Chariot) with mandapa on a raised platform.
- The temple belongs to the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture and follows the East-West alignment of the Sun.
- The temple represents a chariot of the Sun God, with twelve pairs of wheels drawn by seven horses evoking its movement across the heavens.
- It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also known as the ‘Black Pagoda’ because it is built out of black granite.

12. Investor Education and Protection Fund authority is under the aegis of
- (a) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
  - (b) RBI
  - (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
  - (d) SEBI

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) authority has been established under provision of the Companies Act, 2013.
- It is under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. **Hence, Option (a) is correct.**
- It aims to promote investors’ awareness and protect the investors interest.
- The fund is monitored by a trust, which decides how the money will be utilised for specific activities of investor awareness and education.

13. Consider the following statements:

1. All pangolin species are currently listed under Appendix I of CITES.
2. Indian Pangolins are listed as critically endangered in IUCN red list.
3. Indian Pangolin is found in high Himalayas and the North-East.

Select the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**



- IUCN Red List
  - Indian Pangolin: Endangered **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
  - All pangolin species are currently listed under **Appendix I of CITES** which prohibits international trade. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

14. With reference to Genome India Project, consider the following statements:

1. Genome India Project aims to understand the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population.
2. It is under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.

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:**

- Genome India Project is a collaboration of 20 institutions which includes the Indian Institute of Science and some IITs.
- **Objectives**
  - To form a grid after collecting 10,000 samples across India, to arrive at a representative Indian genome.
  - To understand the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated the project. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

15. Consider the following pairs of bilateral exercise with India:

<i><b>Exercise</b></i>	<i><b>Participating country</b></i>
1. Ajeya Warrior	United Kingdom
2. Indradhanush	France
3. Mitra Shakti	Bangladesh
4. Surya Kiran	Nepal

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**



### Explanation:

<i>Exercise</i>	<i>Participating country</i>
1. Ajeya Warrior	United Kingdom
2. Indradhanush	United Kingdom
3. Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka
4. Surya Kiran	Nepal

16. Regarding Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which of the following statements is incorrect?

- IIP is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on a monthly basis.
- The current base year for the IIP series in India is 2011-12.
- Mining, manufacturing, and capital goods are the three broad sectors in which IIP constituents fall.

**Answer: (d)**

### Explanation:

- Mining, manufacturing, and electricity** are the three broad sectors in which IIP constituents fall. **Hence, Option (d) is not correct.** All other statements are correct.

17. Consider the following statements about Mars 2020 mission:

- The aim of Mars 2020 is to look for signs of past life on Mars.
- The rover will collect and store samples of rock and soil on the surface for a potential future mission to bring back to Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (c)**

### Explanation:

- Mars 2020 rover will be launched by NASA in July-August 2020.
- It has been designed **to better understand the geology of Mars** and seek signs of ancient life. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The mission will **collect and store a set of rock and soil samples** that could be returned to Earth in the future. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

18. The power of the Supreme Court of India to decide disputes between the Centre and the States falls under its

- advisory jurisdiction

- (b) appellate jurisdiction
- (c) original jurisdiction
- (d) writ jurisdiction

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The power of the Supreme Court of India to decide disputes between the Centre and the States falls under its original jurisdiction.

19. With reference to Sabka Vishwas Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims at closing pending disputes relating to direct tax cases.
2. The two main components of the Scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.

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:**

- Sabka Vishwas is a legacy dispute resolution scheme notified by the Government for closing pending disputes relating to legacy **Service Tax and Central Excise cases. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is to be operationalized from 1st September 2019.
- The two main components of the Scheme are **dispute resolution and amnesty. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

20. India's ranking in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index' is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following has declared that ranking?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Ease of Doing business is declared by the World Bank.

## **MAINS QUESTIONS**

1. De-criminalisation of politics cannot be achieved by judicial fiat alone.  
Comment. *(150 Words)*
2. Examine the recent proposed direct tax structure by the Government.  
*(250 Words)*



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